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Hafa Adai!

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MHS Aeronautical Dolphins wins first place again in nat'l contest

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» MHS team bags $50K scholarship for first place finish

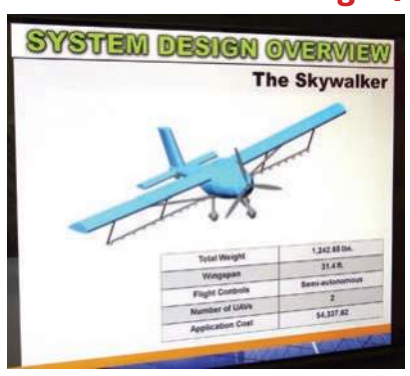
For the second time, Marianas High School's Aeronautical Dolphins bested Real World Design Challenge competitors from all over the United States and U.S. territories to bag a $50,000 scholarship from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The CNMI Aeronautical Dolphins of MHS represented the Pacific territories of the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa when they won the State Real World Design Challenge earlier this April 2015. On Sunday, they presented their National Real World Design Challenge via teleconference and received word of their victory on Monday morning.

The winning team consists of junior and senior students: project manager Ann Margaret Norcio, mission planner Matthew Cao, project mathematician

See MHS on Page 4





The MHS Aeronautical Team gathers after a teleconference with the National Real World Design Challenge panel to present their design known as Skywalker, shown in inset. This is the second time MHS has bested other competitors nationally. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Ice flooding the streets of Tinian'

» DPS conducts 3-day HICI operations, 5 arrested, 30 violator stops on vehicles were made

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Crystal methamphetamine or "ice" has been flooding the streets of Tinian, devastating many families, according to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

To address this concern, Saipan DPS Special Enforcement Action Section, Boating Safety Section, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigations, in conjunction with the Department of Finance's Division of Customs K-9 Unit, did a three-day Highway Criminal Inter-

See ICE on Page 4

Bridge Capital, Greenland Group in talks to develop Plumeria hotel

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC and China's second biggest developer, Greenland Group, are finalizing hotel development negotiations for Plumeria Resort this week in China but no contract has been signed as yet.

According to chief executive officer Philip James of Invest CNMI LLC, which is the EB-5 investor program of Bridge Capital LLC, about 60 EB-5 investors are being sought to invest $30 million to redevelop the abandoned Plumeria Resort, with the Geenland Group as the hotel's operator.

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INSIDE



NATION

Civil libertarians are worried that free speech could be sacrificed to address student grievances.

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France launches air strikes on the Islamic State group's de-facto capital in Syria.

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LIFE & STYLE

Anthony Daniels, who portrays C-3P0, talks about playing the 'Star Wars' droid.

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Local

AMID KAN PACIFIC-DPL TUSSLE OVER LAND LEASE

Lawmakers say an updated land use plan is needed

Lawmakers that attended a rally on Saturday to back the lease renewal of Kan Pacific's Marianas Resort and Spa in Marpi said an updated land use plan is needed to guide all new developments in the CNMI.

"It's critical," said Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan). "That's what's lacking when we look at the overall planning of the development in the Commonwealth."

Citing the existence of a zoning policy for Saipan, Tebuteb said there also needs to have "an overall sort of a Commonwealth plan."

"It's important," said Rep. Vincent Sablan (Ind-Saipan) in a separate interview. "We really have to look into it. We don't want to set the wrong precedent here," noting that Kan Pacific's lease—which expires in 2018—is "the first of its kind," as it is a land lease that's expiring after the 40-year maximum lease years mandated by the NMI Constitution.

On the land-lease policy, Sablan said the CNMI needs consistency. "We cannot just come up with different methods and decisions with different leases. It just doesn't work like that.

"What happens now with Kan Pacific or the fate of Kan Pacific will set a precedent for the next the leases that are coming up," Sablan said, noting hotel officials of Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan that attended the rally.

"So the land use plan needs to be tuned up, if not created…because what we are doing now is just…playing it by ear. We are just making decisions on certain leases as we go. We can't do that. There needs to be consistency," he said.

The RFP

"I totally understand what they are doing," said Best Sunshine International Ltd. CEO Mark Brown, whose company has confirmed a plan to pursue Kan Pacific's Marpi property once the lease expires.

When asked to comment on the Saturday rally, Brown said, "I would probably be doing the exact same thing. Again, as I mentioned before, it's a business. An RFP is going to go out. That's what's being told."

"There will be many other companies. I'm hearing two, maybe three. So there are other big, big companies out there that are also interested in that parcel of land. Again, we are here on island and we have proven the type of business and type of neighbor that we are, so we are not going to sit back and watch someone else go in for the RFP. We will be right there side by side with whoever else is there.

"…It's a business. And we will be as heavily involved as we possibly can, just like the other companies in the RFP," said Brown.

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos has backed the Department of Public Lands' decision to issue a request for proposals for the lands currently leased to Kan Pacific in Marpi.

Final say

However, the decision to lease lands larger than five acres will have to made by the Legislature, Sablan and Tebuteb noted Saturday.

"Eventually, the say will come down to the Legislature in the end," said Sablan. "A lot of the discussions now are based on constitutionality or not. They say you cannot extend the lease over 40 years—true. But nothing says you can't renew an exiting lease."

From 2013 to 2014, Kan Pacific and DPL exchanged multiple letters to begin negotiations to renew the Marpi lease, according to a Kan Pacific letter to DPL that documented these events. But negotiations suffered an "apparent interruption," blamed on Best Sunshine's aggressive pursuit of public lands to meet construction and project mandates as Saipan's exclusive casino licensee, according to a letter from Kan Pacific to DPL.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio has said that the CNMI is constitutionally prohibited from entering into a new lease with Mariana Resort until after their current 40-year lease expires in 2018. However, Kan Pacific argues that the property will not automatically revert to the government, as a provision in their lease agreement provides that "the lessor shall inform the lessee whether it intends to initiate the transition of the management of the facilities to lessor."

"DPL was contractually obligated to give notice of intent," Kan Pacific lawyer Joseph J. Iacopino earlier wrote. "However, such notice was not given, the deadline passed and, instead of giving such notice, DPL encouraged Kan Pacific to enter into subsequent lease with another 40-year term."

On DPL's position for an RFP, Sablan notes that an "RFP is not in the Constitution."

"Neither is a new lease," he added. "Extension is the only word that is there."

"DPL has the authority to negotiate and whatnot but in the end it's going to come to the Legislature. So we'll see where that goes."

On the administration's position that a competitive bid would serve the "best interests" of the CNMI, Tebuteb asked, "How do you define best interest?"

"According to the RFP? Those are all speculations. Any RFP are all speculations until such time until they are fully approved. …How do you measure what's best for the people? How do you measure that? You can't. And frankly speaking it's hard when you have policy makers who have deep pockets," he said. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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Woman acquitted of beating up her former husband

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman was acquitted yesterday of allegations that she beat up her former husband, who is a police officer, during an argument at their home in Kannat Tabla.

At a bench trial, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found 30-year-old Farah Jane Reyes not guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Camacho said the government failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Farah Reyes' physical contact with police officer Rick Reyes was unlawful.

He said the government also failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Farah Reyes' actions to stop Rick Reyes from unilaterally taking their two children disturbed Rick Reyes' peace.

"The court is convinced that when Farah Reyes was making physical contact with Rick Reyes' back and neck, it was for the purpose of preventing him from unilaterally taking the children," said Camacho.

After the judge announced his decision, the tearful Farah Reyes hugged her counsel, assistant public defender Tillman Clark.

At the trial, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda called to the stand police officer Ralph Rangamar, Rick Reyes, and the couple's 9-year-old daughter.

Rangamar testified that he responded to a 911 call about a domestic violence at a residence in Kannat Tabla in the morning of July 8, 2015. Rangamar said he met with Rick Reyes, who had a scratch on his neck. He stated that he did not see any injuries on Farah Reyes, who was about 20 feet away from him.

Rick Reyes testified that he had an on-again, off-again relationship with Farah Reyes and that they have two children.

He said he had just gotten home from work on July 8 when he and Farah Reyes began arguing. Rick Reyes said he got upset when Farah Reyes told their 9-year-old daughter to get cigarettes from a neighbor. He said it was raining at the time.

Farah Reyes told Rick Reyes to leave the house. While carrying their baby in his arm, he stated he was going to take the children with him.

Rick Reyes testified that Farah Reyes hit and grabbed his back more than 10 times. He said she did not want him to take the children. He testified that while attacking him, she also hit the head of their son and kicked their daughter.

Rick Reyes said he just wanted to keep the children safe from Farah Reyes.

The 9-year-old daughter testified that during the argument, she saw her father standing over her mother, who was on the ground. She said her father had the baby in his arm.

The daughter also testified that her mother ran out and that she did not see her mother do anything to her father.

After the daughter completed her testimony, Cepeda rested the government's case.

Assistant public defender Clark, counsel for Farah Reyes, moved for a judgment of acquittal.

In granting the motion for acquittal, Camacho said both parents have legal and physical custody of both children.

"This court does not tolerate domestic violence. The question is: Is trying to stop a person from leaving with your children an act of domestic violence?" Camacho said.

The judge pointed out that because Rick Reyes at the time did not have sole legal and physical custody of the children, Farah Reyes' actions to prevent Rick Reyes from taking the children was understandable.

Camacho said Rick Reyes cannot unilaterally deny another parent's legal rights to her children—not without a formal hearing and court order.

Camacho said the proper venue to resolve physical and legal custody of children is in Judge Kenneth L. Govendo's family court.

Camacho said a criminal court is geared to determining if someone broke a criminal law and for that person to be punished.

Whatever happens to Rick and Farah Reyes—whether they stay together or separate completely—they should obtain counseling, if not for themselves, then for the two children, Camacho said.

"The utmost important thing is the two children, and these two parents need to put aside their petty bickering and focus on the two young children," Camacho said.

When asked for comments, Clark later stated that Camacho made the right decision. Assistant attorney general Cepeda refused to comment.

Marshalls gets $8.9M in Compact payments

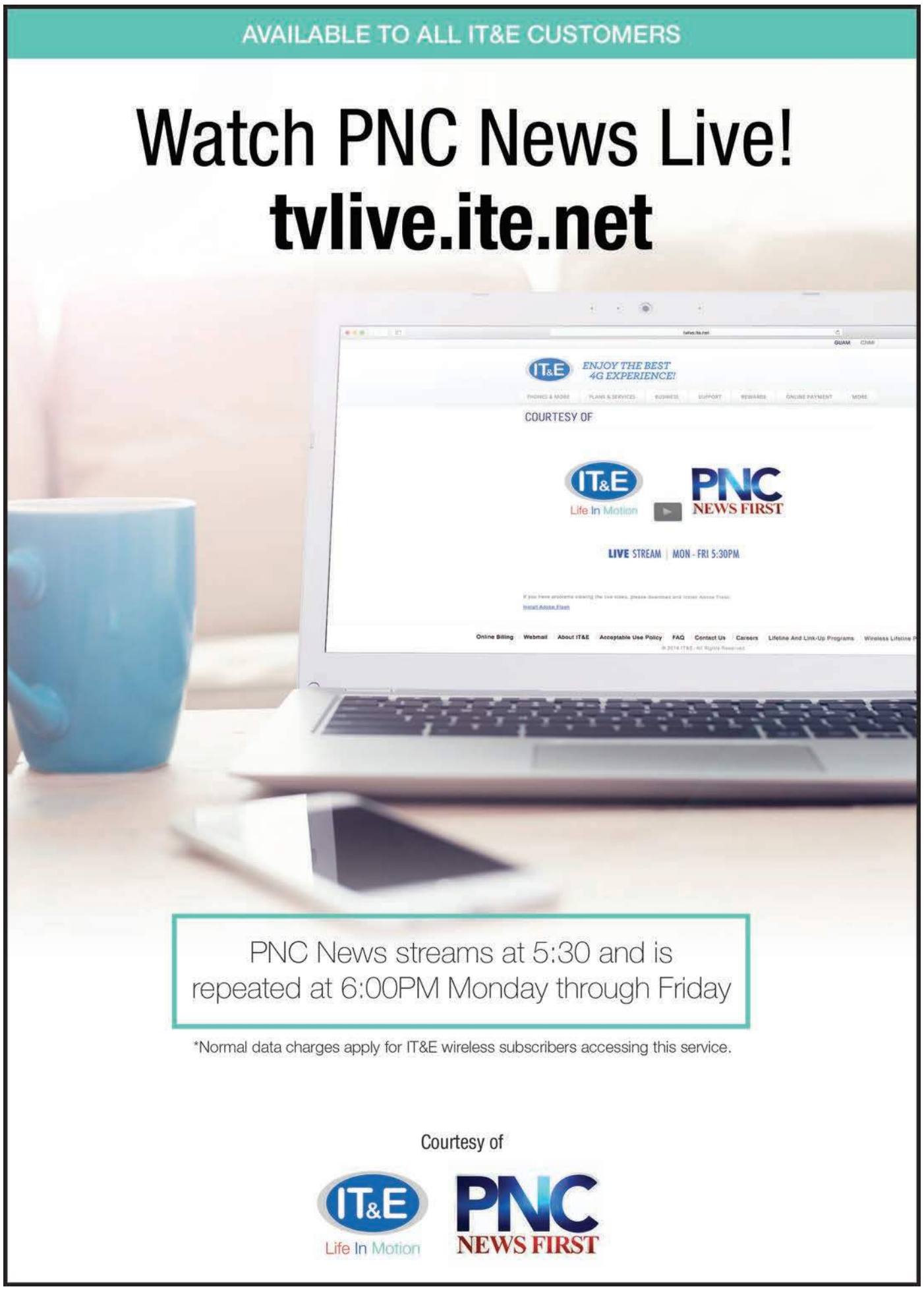
WASHINGTON, D.C. —The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs recently released to the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' U.S. Compact grant payments for October totaling $8,986,600.

Some $8.6 million is for Kwajalein Impact and Use Payment for the first quarter; $370,000 will go to the Enewetak Food & Agriculture Program.

As provided for under Section 212 of the Compact of Free Association, the United States provides payments for military use and operating rights on Kwajelein Island and Atoll. Also under the Enewetak Food & Agriculture program, the U.S. continues to assist a community affected by the U.S. nuclear testing program of the 1940s by providing supplemental food for the people of Enewetak, replanting vegetation on the inhabited islands, conducting agricultural maintenance training and transporting food supplies.

Compact grants provided by the United States to the Marshall Islands are managed through the bilateral Joint Economic Management Finance and Accountability Committee meetings between the U.S. government and the Marshall Islands government. ***(DOI)***





CNMI master concession agreements bill now law

A bill to spur competitive concessionaire bids at the Tinian and Rota airports is now law, after acting governor Ralph DLG Torres signed the new mandate last Friday, a few days before the current CNMI-wide master concession agreement expired. Public Law 19-21 authorizes the Commonwealth Ports Authority to grant master concession agreements "for each point of entry" on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In 1985, Public Law 4-60 defined master concession agreements as the exclusive right to operate facilities at each and every port of entry for the sale of duty-free and other items of merchandise. That same year, CPA and DFS Saipan, Ltd. entered into a master concession agreement, or MCA. Current successive agreements were set to expire Nov. 15, 2015.

The law notes that since 1985 DFS has only operated stores at the Saipan International Airport. DFS Saipan has not exercised its exclusive privileges at the Tinian and Rota airports due to low retail demand, low passenger traffic, and unstable air service at each airport.

The new law states it is important for "national or international concessionaires" to open concessions on Tinian and Rota.

"Exclusive island concession opportunities will generate additional revenue for CPA, stimulate the economies of Tinian and Rota, and provide additional retail options for visiting passengers."

The law amends the definition of a "master concession" in the CNMI to grant "separate" master concession agreements for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, respectively.

It also mandates CPA to proceed with master concession agreements for the CNMI islands if determined to be in the best interests of the CNMI.

"[Rota and Tinian] deserve to take part and benefit from the two concession agreements," the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism said in September. "Amending the current statue to clarify that Tinian and Rota are part of the CNMI will clear any ambiguities that currently exist and indicate that their port of entries are eligible for business."

For their part, CPA has also written in support of the new mandate.

In a letter to the Senate in July, CPA cites a report from consultants Ricondo and Associates on the viability of separate agreements. CPA said duty free shops on Rota and Tinian might be impractical due to lack of direct flights, and said business ventures may not be profitable. However—since that consultant report was issued last year September 2014—CPA said they have received interest for a retail concession on the two smaller islands.

"For these reasons, CPA believes that the current master concession discussions for Saipan contemplate that Tinian and Rota would need to either be segregated or a master concessionaire on Saipan would have to subsidize duty free sales on Tinian and Rota," said Maryann Lizama, CPA executive director, in July.

"We encourage the passage of the bill," Saipan mayor David Apatang also wrote in September. He said this is "step among many that must be performed" to materialize policies to allow for proffits at the Rota and Tinian ports.

In a statement in October, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce said that what DFS wants is to have a master concession for Saipan only, writing in support of the legislation that would divide the CNMI master concession and create a Saipan-only master concession," she said.

Aldan-Pierce was commenting on a recent CPA board resolution to not negotiate another master concession with DFS. On Sept. 28, the CPA board voted to not enter into another Commonwealth-wide duty-free master concession with DFS Saipan, although such negotiations received overwhelming support at a public hearing last year. "It appears that the CPA directors, anticipating the bill's passage, denied the request to negotiate a CNMI-wide master concession with us and we are fine with that," Aldan-Pierce said.

Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota) introduced this bill. The Senate committee on Resources and Economic Development in July lamented the lack of duty-free business on Tinian and Rota airports since their inception, in the report, which recommended the passage of the bill. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

MHS

From Page 1

Masrur Alam, marketing specialist Edna Nisola, simulations engineer Jun Young Kim, and design engineer Robert Malate. They were led by MHS mathematics teacher and coach John Raulerson, with team collaboration between professionals in aero-structures, aero-dynamics, mechanical engineering, and pilot industries.

In a statement, acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said it is great joy to see CNMI students compete and represent the CNMI in national competitions.

"For these students to come back home with a national award against some of the nation's best and brightest students really exemplifies how great they are," Torres said.

"This is the second time in three years they have achieved this, and it is a testament to their hard work and the time their teachers dedicated to them. … The success of the MHS Aeronautical Dolphins serve as a reminder that the development of the STEM fields in the education of our students is a worthwhile endeavor that will foster benefits for our islands as these bright young students drive our economy in the future," Torres said.

This year's National Real World Design Challenge was to design an unmanned aircraft system capable of targeted dispersal of fluid pesticide across two co-located crop areas with a constant wind speed of 11 knots coming from the west. The design process included three phases, with the students starting work in April of this year.

Norcio stated that the onslaught of storms and Typhoon Soudelor as well as the breakdown of the undersea fiber optic cable forced them to work longer hours to make up for lost time.

Luckily, she said, they were able to reach out to the MangoSix Restaurant and Douglas Brennan of Atkins Kroll for Internet access and support.

Norcio explains that the unmanned aircraft system, which they named the Skywalker, produces extremely coarse droplets suitable for wind speeds of up to 20 mph using an extending spray broom that compensates for any geographical variables on a crop field of sweet potatoes. With this system, the team was able to do a cost analysis that equaled up to $15.5 million in net cash flow after five years of use.

According to Raulerson, "we modified a light support aircraft which is called a foxbat into a sprayer. We sprayed precision agriculture which means we only spray on affected areas from light to high infestation."

He says that the aircraft is flown using software that was designed by the students. "It's a lot of hard work. We spent everyday designing. It's a one-year project and this is our second time to win the national championship," he said.

Raulerson shared that only two airplanes were built and displayed in Washington, D.C. during the national competition, which included the first design they won in 2013.

According to Norcio and Cao, they are still in disbelief about their win. "We are still taking it in. It hasn't hit us yet," they said.

"This is a big thing for a small rock in the middle of the Pacific against these states. It's a major win. It was a team effort," Raulerson said. "It's hard work and endurance that allowed them to prevail and come this far."

This second win for the CNMI's Aeronautical Dolphins is an added accomplishment to their consistent wins in the State Real World Design Challenge since the began participating in 2012.

The RWDC state competition is coordinated by the CNMI Public School System whose state coordinator is Jeaniffer Cubangbang.

The 2015 CNMI mentors consist of Manoj Rahematpura of Pratt & Whitney, Capt. Christina Hart Mastracchio of Andersen Air Force Base, Donald Clayburn of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Douglas Brennan of Atkins Kroll Toyota, Dave Swartz of the Federal Aviation Administration, and Emory Frink.

In 2012, the CNMI won the Against All Odds Award in the national competition in Washington, D.C. In 2013, they won first place in the National Real World Design Competition. The 2013 National Competition winners consisted of Jill Ann Arada, Clariza Magat, Stephanie Xiao, Cecilia Huixin Xu, John Paul Aglubat, and Jessica Bigueras.

The Aeronautical Dolphins said that Brennan also hosted the CNMI team competition's presentation at Atkins Kroll. They also lauded the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport for allowing the use of their facilities so that the team's research could continue during the recovery efforts.

For more information about the Real World Design Challenge, visit www.realworld-designchallenge.org. ***(With Dennis B. Chan)***

ICE

From Page 1

diction Patrol on Tinian over the weekend—a first.

The operation netted 30 violator stops on vehicles and five arrests for illegal possession of controlled substances ("ice" and marijuana) and for violation of the open container law.

At a press conference yesterday on Saipan, Tinian Mayor San Nicolas said that, just like in any other island or community in the Commonwealth, "ice" has devastated families throughout San Jose on Tinian. He said the same thing probably happens in Kagman and Tanapag on Saipan and Sinapalo on Rota.

"We are one village and there has been a flood of this drug on the streets of Tinian," the mayor said.

San Nicolas said the people of Tinian and its leadership are thankful to Deleon Guerrero for his leadership in working closely with Tinian DPS resident head John Santos in their effort to root out the "ice" problem.

San Nicolas said they support and join the commissioner's "war on ice."

"We appreciate all the efforts that you and other colleagues in the law enforcement are doing," he said, as he thanked Customs and Finance Secretary Larissa Larson and the Tinian leadership for making the HICI operation a success.

Deleon Guerrero said they believe from the very beginning that the department needs to come out with a comprehensive strategy to curtail criminal activities in the Commonwealth.

For the most part, he said, the root of majority of crimes in the Commonwealth is linked to drug abuse.

Deleon Guerrero said they assisted the Tinian DPS in carrying out the weekend operation at the request of San Nicolas and in coordination with the Division of Customs K-9 unit as well as Tinian DPS resident director Santos.

"We believe that the operation was quite successful in terms of us meeting our objectives. I am very pleased with the outcome," he said.

"This is only the beginning. We are going to be taking a number of steps in the future to ensure that public safety is not compromised in any of the two municipalities," Deleon Guerrero said.

In this case, Deleon Guerrero said, when there is a flood of "ice" within a community, it is only appropriate that they provide the additional backing necessary.

DPS Boating Safety commander Sgt. Thomas Blas disclosed that 14 Saipan police officers, two Saipan K-9 officers, and two K-9 dogs conducted the HICI operations on Tinian from Friday to Sunday.

Blas said they patrolled areas where criminal activities are reportedly high and most likely to be committed.

With 30 violator stops made on vehicles, Blas said that five were arrested for illegal possession of "ice" and marijuana and for violating the law that does not allow open containers of alcoholic beverages inside vehicles.

He said among the five arrested was Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs maintenance worker Gary Michael Cruz Cepeda, who was apprehended for possession of "ice."

Blas said two of the arrested were male minors for illegal possession of marijuana.

Blas said 21 active traffic citations were issued for various traffic offenses.

Tinian DPS resident director Santos it is a big concern for a small island community to have a flood of crystal meth.

"Like what the commissioner and the mayor said, I would like to emphasize that this is just the beginning. We will pursue this and put a stop, not only for Tinian but CNMI wide," Santos said.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

James said he helped set up the EB-5 regional center license for Bridge Capital about 12 months ago and it was approved in October.

"Although [Plumeria Resort] needs a lot of work, the fact that it is a physical building [and] the ability to see the building helps to attract foreign investment. As principals of Bridge Capital, we are quite happy to take something that's a bit of an eyesore and turn it into something commercially successful and good for the island," he said.

James, who is based in China at the moment, said most of the investors for the project will come from China and that most of their customers will likely come from China.

He said the EB-5 program will require every investor for this project to employ 10 U.S. citizens as workers "but we haven't quite gotten into those details."

Bridge Capital chief operating officer Jody Jordahl, who is also in China with James, was unavailable for comment at the time of the phone interview.

The EB-5 program, under which Bridge Capital plans to renovate the hotel, was created by Congress in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors. It is administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The minimum qualifying investment in the United States is $1 million, but in high unemployment areas or rural areas in the U.S., the minimum qualifying investment is $500,000. The investor has to create or preserve at least 10 full-time jobs for qualifying U.S. workers within two years of the immigrant investor's admission to the U.S. as a conditional permanent resident.

In a statement last week, Bridge Capital said it plans to incorporate new elements into Plumeria Resort, "including a beautiful pool and beach area, numerous restaurants and a beach bar, a relaxing and indulgent spa, and an electronic gaming facility with slot machines."

"Bridge has seen and experienced first-hand the current shortage of hotel rooms on island. We are confident that redeveloping the Plumeria hotel will help address this critical need as the CNMI economy continues to expand and more and more tourists flock to our island paradise," the statement adds.

The hotel's potential operator, the Greenland Group, has been in business for over 20 years in real estate, integrated development of relevant industries. It is based in Shanghai, China.

According to its website, Greenland Group is ranked 268th place in the 2014 Fortune Global 500 and ranked 40th among Chinese mainland enterprises on the list. In 2014, its business operating income amounted to $402 billion yuan or $62.7 billion USD, with a total of pre-tax profits of $24.2 billion yuan or $3.8 billion USD and total assets of $478.4 billion yuan at the year-end, of which the real estate business had a pre-sale area of 21.15 million square meters and a sum of $240 billion yuan or $37.4 billion USD.

Hotel occupancy up 67 percent; rates up 40 percent since 2010

With the release of its latest monthly occupancy statistics, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported that occupancy rates have catapulted 67 percent and room rates have jumped 40 percent compared to five years ago.

HANMI cited the growth as evidence that existing hotels on public land leases should be allowed to negotiate new leases with the government.

"October was another month of phenomenal performance in terms of occupancy rates, marking a continued upswing in the CNMI's tourism recovery. It would be prudent to continue this growth," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "We believe our members—Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan—should all have the opportunity to negotiate with the Department of Public Lands so we can continue contributing to the economy. Delaying these negotiations doesn't help the industry."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 87 percent, 5 percent higher than last year. Additionally, average room rates have increased by 5 percent compared to the same period last fiscal year.

HANMI reported a 91.06-percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for October 2015, a 27-percent increase compared to October 2014.

A total of 65,009 of 71,393 available room nights sold in October 2015, compared to 51,065 of 71,393 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $124.41 during the month, compared to $118.98 last October.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(HANMI)***

Tinian DCCA worker arrested for 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A maintenance worker of the Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was arrested for allegedly committing traffic offenses and possession of methamphetamine or "ice" in San Jose, Tinian on Friday night.

Gary Michael Cruz Cepeda, 48, was taken to Saipan Superior Court yesterday for possession of controlled substance. His bail was initially set at $10,000 cash. Assistant public defender Tillman Clark appeared as his counsel.

Police detective Rudolfo Saucares Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that he and another police officer conducted a routine patrol heading north of Bank of Guam Route 201 in San Jose, Tinian when they saw a vehicle with no taillights heading north on a gravel road Friday at 9:12pm.

Hermosilla said they flagged down the vehicle behind Bank of Guam. The driver, identified as Cepeda, stated that he did not have with him his driver's license and car registration.

When Hermosilla asked if he had something on him that would hurt the officer if he checks him before securing him in a police unit, Cepeda said he had a straw containing "ice" in his left pocket.

After police recovered the straw, a K-9 dog was brought to the scene and it showed signs of interest in the suspect's car.

The officer searched the vehicle and allegedly saw drug paraphernalia on the car's seat.

Cepeda was booked and detained after being cited with faulty taillights and not having in his possession a valid driver's license.

Hermosilla said the crystalline substance in the straw tested presumptive positive for "ice."

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government at the hearing.





IN SUPPORT OF TINIAN'S YOUTH

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and the municipality's treasurer, Charlene Lizama, received from Best Sunshine International a donation in support of the Tinian Youth Basketball Team, who will represent the islands in a tournament in Guam. In a simple ceremony yesterday afternoon, the municipal leaders are joined by BSI's chief operating officer Matt Harkness, chief service officer Tao Xing, vice president for legal Charles McDonald, and legal counsel Viola Alepuyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Study: Six factors impede fair housing in the CNMI

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A government-funded study on what hinders fair housing for Commonwealth residents has identified three stumbling blocks each for the private and public sectors.

For the private sector, the three impediments are: one, people who are not of Northern Marianas descent—who are subject to legal restrictions on their ability to own land—tend to be concentrated in areas with high shares of rental housing; two, lack of fair housing complaint activity; and three, lack of legal avenues for Commonwealth residents who believe they have experienced housing discrimination.

For the public sector, the impediments are: one, the need to strengthen the local fair housing infrastructure; two, lack of knowledge of fair housing rights and obligations on the part of housing providers and consumers; and three, lack of Northern Marianas Housing Corp. certification as "substantially equivalent" for the purposes of the Fair Housing Assistance Program.

The study, called Analysis of Impediments, or AI, was initiated by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to analyze impediments in finding fair housing in the Commonwealth.

"The Analysis of Impediments is a comprehensive review of barriers that affect the rights of fair housing choice. The AI covers private and public sectors policies, practices, and procedures that affect fair housing choice," said NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios.

He said it is important for the agency to have the report as it "provides a basis for fair housing planning, provides essential information to policy makers, administrative staff, housing providers, lenders, fair housing advocates, and assists in building support for fair housing efforts."

NMHC sought the assistance of a private entity, Western Economic Services from Oregon, to complete the AI.

"[The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] has informed the agency that the AI needs to be comprehensive and all-encompassing. Because of the difficulty in finding specific data or statistics, the agency decided to solicit the assistance from a private vendor to complete the AI," Palacios said.

The report can be viewed at the NMHC's website, nmhcgov.net. Here is a direct link to the report: http://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/NMHC%202015%20AI%20-%20Public%20Review.pdf

WES will be presenting an overview of the AI to the general public on Thursday at 10am at the NMHC conference room. It will also be a venue for the public to inquire and comment on the report.

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Elected officials can drive tinted cars

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres has signed into law a bill that amends the Commonwealth Code to exempt the governor, lieutenant governor, and other elected officials from tinting prohibitions for vehicles used, owned, leased, or assigned to them.

The bill also exempts these elected officials from having government license plates on their vehicles.

Previously, only judges and law enforcers were exempted from the tinting prohibitions and plate requirements.

Senate Bill 19-28—authored by Sens. Francisco Cruz (R-Saipan) and Jude Hofschneider (R-Saipan)—is now Public Law 19-28. Torres signed the bill on Nov. 13.

The law states that it is necessary to protect elected official from being targeted by the disgruntled. The exemptions will ensure that elected officials cannot be easily attacked while traveling on the road or in parked vehicles, the law states.

"The crash of the Retirement Fund, casino matters, land compensation disputes, and increased criminal activities" can make officials a target, the bill states.

In a report in September, the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations said that elected officials can become the "focal point for all the negative outcomes" of issues in the Commonwealth. This can result in violence against them and their loved ones, the report states.

The committee also said that window tinting would "prolong the lifespan of the interior of the vehicle." "The tint will provide for the protection from UV rays that may damage and deteriorate the interior of the vehicle," the JGO committee said.

Agreement signed between DLNR, farmers' co-op

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An agreement between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association was finally signed last Saturday.

Co-op board members and acting DLNR Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo attended the signing at the Garapan Public Market.

Pro-tem president Crispin Deleon Guerrero and Teregeyo signed the document on behalf of the co-op board and DLNR.

In just two weeks since calling the attention of the co-op, a year-long overdue agreement is now in place after both parties sat down with acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and their legal counsels last week.

With the agreement signed, the co-op can again operate the Garapan Public Market building.

"Public Market now can operate because the only main issue in the very beginning was that when they operated a year ago, there was no agreement. The department just want to do things right," Teregeyo said.

The signed agreement now includes $300,000 liability insurance, an increase from the co-op's negotiation last week of $200,000. The co-op also noted that the insurance will cover food poisoning.

The agreement states that the co-op will sell not only local produce but also seafood, poultry, and meat, and that the market will be a central place for farmers, fishermen and ranchers to sell their goods.

The co-op is now in the process of coming up with an opening date as well as their inventory.

With regards to Marianas Meat Harvesting, which is still operating at the market after two cease-and-desist letters from DLNR, Teregeyo said it is a separate issue.

"The meat market is a separate issue. The AG's Office has already guided us on two cease-and-desist letters and the meat market has responded to that and we're working with the AG," Teregeyo said.

She added that they will be meeting with the AG with regards to the response of the meat company.



Co-op pro-tem president Crispin Deleon Guerrero and acting DLNR Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo sign the agreement with regards to the co-op's use of the Garapan Public Market facility.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

CUC sets temporary power service outages

As crews continue mounting transformers and reconnecting customers across Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is moving into the next phase of the restoration by addressing portions of Saipan's power transmission and distribution system less seriously damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

To maximize resources and accomplish restoration goals as quickly as possible, CUC will conduct a series of temporary power interruptions in the coming weeks to allow linemen safe access to the primary lines for the replacement of essential power distribution materials.

At 8am Wednesday, Nov. 18, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service to Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi to replace deteriorated power poles, install a new pole, and to re-sag primary conductors. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

At 8am Saturday, Nov. 21, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service to Puerto Rico, Navy Hill (Upper and Lower), Garapan, Chinatown, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, and along Quartermaster Drive to replace deteriorated power poles and hardware. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

At 8am Tuesday, Nov. 24, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service to Chalan Piao to replace deteriorated power poles and to install two air break switches. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to six hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

For more information, visit our website www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms,
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL R. MUÑA, and MINA L. MUÑA, Defendants.	) Civil Action No. 11-0078) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 10th day of December, 2015, at 1:30pm before Judge David Wiseman in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2015.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT
DEPUTY CLERK

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Executrix Jessica M. Kisa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JESUS LIZAMA KISA, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 15-0005 NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION DATE: 12/01/15 TIME: 1:30PM JUDGE: Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESUS LIZAMA KISA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Jessica M. Kisa**, Executrix of the Estate of Jesus Lizama Kisa, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Final Decree of Distribution**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 1st day of December, 2015 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 9th day of November 2015.

Clerk of Court
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free medical mission on Nov. 22

The Pentecostal Missiionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Saipan will be hosting a free medical mission on Nov. 22, 2015, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse, from 3pm to 6pm. There will be blood sugar and blood pressure check, body massage/reflex, facial cleansing, haircut, eye screening, snacks, giveaways, and counseling/prayers for the sick. For more information, call Pastor Claire at 789-7566. ***(PR)***

'Smart Start' event for all MHS seniors

Marianas High School, in collaboration with Northern Marianas College, will be having their Senior Start Smart event. All seniors are required to attend. Seniors who are not allowed to attend need to turn in a signed slip. Seniors with last names A-Concepcion are scheduled to attend on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, from 8:30am to 2:30pm, at Saipan World Resort, Taga Room. Seniors whose last names begin with Conner-Z are scheduled to attend on Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, from 8:30am to 2:30pm, at Saipan World Resort, Taga Room. ***(PR)***

Caregivers workshop

The Commonwealth Respite Service Program, under the Ayuda Network, Inc. in collaboration with the Council on Developmental Disabilities, is inviting family caregivers for a one-day workshop on Nov. 20, 2015, at Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room from 8am to 2:30pm.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide caregivers an opportunity for support and to celebrate this month as 2015 National Family Caregivers Month with the theme, "Respite: Care For Caregivers."

Seating is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register for the workshop, call Ayuda Network at 322-7469 from 7:30am to 4pm. Registration deadline for this workshop is Nov. 18 at 3:30pm. For special accommodations, call 322-7469 by Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 17 and on Nov. 19-20, from 10am to 4pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Nov. 17-18, from noon to 8pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Kagman schools' PTSA gathering this Thursday

The Kagman Schools PTSA is inviting all stakeholders of the Kagman schools to a meeting this Thursday, Nov. 19, at 5pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. We will be unveiling our committee focus and goals for the year. Time is flying! It is almost December! If you signed up for a committee, make sure to attend this meeting so we can make something happen for our students and community before the end of this school year. All PTSA attendees get raffle tickets to win prizes the night of the meeting and for a chance to win in the BIG End of the Year raffle. The more you attend, the more chances to win! The BIG End of the Year raffle grand prize is a flat screen TV! ***(PR)***

USDOL official at November SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have Patrick Candoleta, Assistant District Director for the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, presenting at its November general membership meeting. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. This presentation is open to the public. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(SHRM)***

Marines to hold non-fire training on Tinian

DEDEDO, Guam—The 1st Battalion 2d Marines will return to Tinian to conduct a non-fire training exercise from Nov. 16 to 18. This exercise tests a rapid deployment capability of first echelon forces that is a critical part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program. The North Carolina-based force will fly into the Tinian International Airport aboard a KC-130 and hike to North Field where they will train for two nights. Upon conclusion of their mission, the force will return on foot to the Tinian International Airport and redeploy to Fuji, Japan. ***(PR)***

Report wild bee colonies to UOG WPTRC

The University of Guam Western Pacific Tropical Research Center is requesting the assistance of the public to report wild bee colonies, especially if the bees are a safety concern for neighborhoods or homeowners. WPTRC will remove the problem bees and transport them to a location where beekeepers will be able to tend to them. To report wild bee colonies and have them removed, contact Chris Rosario, WPTRC Research Assistant at 487-1640, 735-2068 or via email rosarioc1640@gmail.com. For more information about bees, visit http://cnas-re.uog.edu/bees. ***(UoG)***

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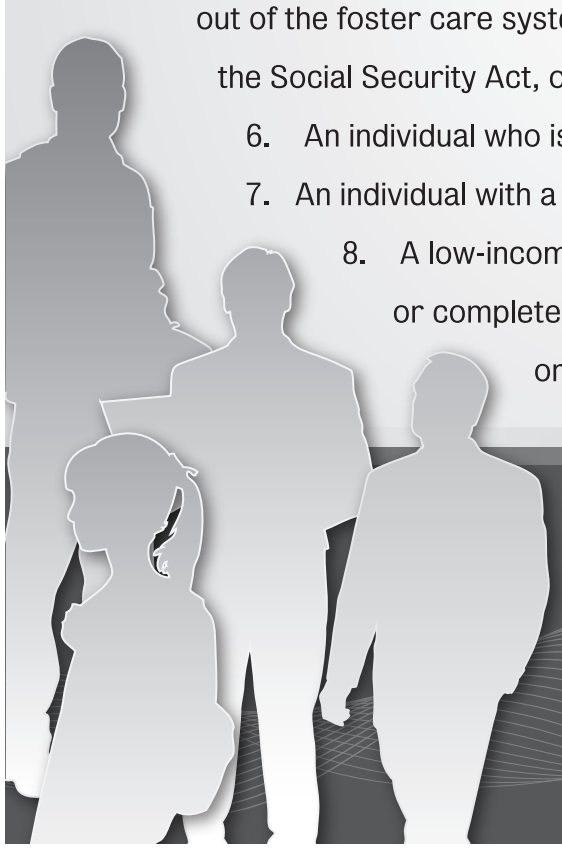
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/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS MAYOR OF TINIAN
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S
/S/ JAY JESS SAN NICOLAS DIRECTOR, CNMI DEPT. OF LABOR-TINIAN

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ITB NO.: ITB16-BECQ/TIQ007

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/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ
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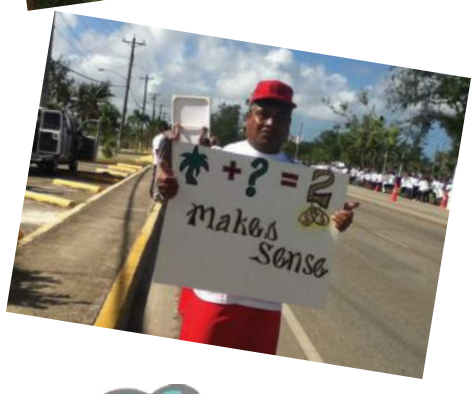


















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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Paris attacks: What is the sensible response to this horrific act?

After the terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris in January, it was clear that France wasn't immune to acts of violence motivated by a warped interpretation of Islam. It was also foreseeable that that risk would increase with France's participation in the launching of airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria as well as Iraq. Still, Friday's orchestrated carnage in Paris—for which Islamic State has claimed responsibility—came as a shock.

As with 9/11 and other acts of terrorism, the multiple attacks that killed more than 120 people in the French capital will (and should) lead to an inquest into whether internal security and intelligence collection were adequate. In his comments, French President Francois Hollande went farther, describing the attacks as an "act of war" and promising that France would use "all means anywhere, inside or outside the country" to defeat Islamic State.

For Americans, those words were reminiscent of President George W. Bush's declaration after 9/11 that the U.S. would act if the Taliban government in Afghanistan didn't end its support for Al Qaeda and other terrorists. Soon afterward, with support from Congress, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, and American troops remain in that country to this day, albeit not in a combat role.

Hollande's words also recall President Obama's pledge more than a year ago that the U.S. and its allies "will degrade, and ultimately destroy" Islamic State. So far that effort has consisted of airstrikes, a failed attempt to organize and train "moderate" forces opposed to Islamic State and, most recently, the announcement that up to 50 U.S. special operations personnel would be deployed in Syria.

Even before Friday's outrage, some of Obama's critics were calling for an escalation in U.S. military activity against Islamic State. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a presidential candidate, has proposed sending 10,000 troops to the region to fortify the fight against Islamic State. We expect to hear more calls for escalation after the horror in Paris.

Such calls are understandable. It is of course frustrating and troubling that the U.S. and its allies have had such difficulty combating Islamic State, Al Qaeda and other radical Muslim groups despite our clear military superiority. Yet the reality is that Americans and Europeans are reluctant to be drawn back into full-scale war in the Middle East, wars to which they are not fully committed, which often require years of sacrifice and which they often do not win.

This page has supported Obama's call for "a steady, relentless effort" against Islamic State using air power and relying on actions of local forces—but not U.S. "boots on the ground." Horrific as Friday's attacks were, they shouldn't lead to a sudden, reactive lurch in U.S. policy.

That doesn't mean that the U.S. and its allies shouldn't continue to search for ways to recalibrate the current campaign against Islamic State to make it more effective. A new strategy may also require increased vigilance about the infiltration of potential terrorists. But that mustn't lead to the scapegoating of refugees who in many cases are fleeing Islamic State.

Not for the first time, a small but determined group of terrorists has been able to exploit the openness of Western society to commit murder and mayhem on a monstrous scale. Nations such as France and the United States need to find a way to respond to that asymmetric threat without curtailing civil liberties or closing their borders.

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The West's fatal misunderstanding of Islamic State

By RASHA ELASS
Reuters



Rasha Elass has recently returned to the United States after covering the Middle East for over 10 years. Most recently, she was based inside Syria to cover the uprising-turned-civil war as a freelancer for several media outlets, often covering the war without a byline for security reasons.

The horrendous attacks on Paris have an eerie resemblance to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, in that they seem to have caught everyone off guard.

Until perhaps Friday, the main perception among Western intelligence agencies and Washington policymakers has been that Islamic State poses "no immediate threat" to the United States or the West.

"Unlike Al Qaeda, ISIS is more interested in establishing a Caliphate and not so interested in attacking the West," a retired CIA officer explained during a closed meeting at one of Washington's think tanks. He was echoing a common sentiment, and insisted that "Al Qaeda remains the main threat." Even U.S. President Barack Obama recently said with confidence that Islamic State was being "contained."

But we cannot forget that Islamic State came to the world stage barely over a year ago, when it took Mosul and subsequently one third of Iraq as well as one third of Syria in a matter of weeks. Some of the terror group's major advances on the ground took mere hours, advances that Obama later said will take years to roll back.

I remember covering the war at that time from Damascus, Syria, and later from Beirut, where I kept in constant communication via the Internet with the Syrian rebels and civilians who had suddenly found themselves under Islamic State rule in the eastern Syrian province of Deir al Zor. During those first few days, many went underground, not sure what to do about their new, brutal occupier, who proceeded to slaughter more than 700 men from the Arab Sunni Muslim tribe of Shueitat because the tribe did not pledge allegiance to Islamic State. The militant group commanded all men of fighting age in Deir Al Zor to report to Islamic State checkpoints, surrender weapons, and either pledge allegiance to Islamic State or leave the territory immediately.

"We never thought the West would allow a group like ISIS to expand, but now I know that we have been played. We have been extremely stupid," one anti-Islamic State rebel told me on condition of anonymity to protect his family. He sounded embittered by what he called a shocking and swift victory for the group, and he spoke to me from his car, which he said he had parked just outside an Internet cafe to piggy-back on the Wi-Fi signal without anyone hearing our conversation. He said Islamic State had set up checkpoints everywhere.

"The only thing that makes sense to us is that the world wants to dump all its trash here," he said, referring to the Islamic State jihadists, whom he said were mainly non-Syrian, but other Arab nationals, Chechens, and Westerners. "And then the West will come and bomb them all. This must be the strategy because nothing else makes any sense."

Conspiracy theories aside, there is some truth to the idea that some countries, as naive and misguided as they have been, privately sighed relief to see their own Islamist nationals travel to Islamist territory to meet their fate.

"It's better than having them stay in our country," one Western diplomat told me on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter. "Statistically, a newly arrived jihadist to ISIS territory is killed within weeks, so good riddance." He added that all the West had to worry about were the "lone-wolf attacks" inspired by Islamic State.

Unfortunately, the Paris attacks have disproved this theory, and it is time to shed other falsely comforting illusions as well.

Namely, let us not forget that some of the United States' staunchest allies have been, and remain, responsible for facilitating the arrival of money, materiel, and jihadists into Islamic State territory, not to mention providing the ideological guidance for the terror group. They have been doing so in the hopes of toppling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Jihadists have crossed the borders of Jordan and Turkey into Syria, seemingly at will. Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, and Saudi Arabia have not stopped their private citizens from sending money to various Islamist brigades, including Islamic State. They also give airtime to the muftis who provide ideological guidance to Islamic State, religious scholars who condone sectarian killing, gruesome beheadings, and sexual slavery on theological grounds.

It has been too convenient a falsity also for the West to believe that Syria's war is Syria's problem, or at least someone else's problem, when so many world players are already involved in the war there, either directly or by proxy.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had strong words at the ongoing Vienna talks on Syria, attended by foreign ministers of some 20 nations. Standing next to his Russian counterpart, Kerry called the Paris attacks "the most vile, horrendous, outrageous, unacceptable acts on the planet." But he added that they "encouraged us today to do even harder work to make progress and to help resolve the crises that we face."

Peace and order in Syria are a long way off—Syrians are not even represented in Vienna—but if world players resolve to ensure that the Paris attacks become the nail in Islamic State's coffin, then at least the Phoenix is already rising from the ashes.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Corruption in the CNMI government: A worsening crisis

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

During the first 10 years of Commonwealth self-government, one of the earliest government corruption cases in the CNMI took place. Several members and staff of the CNMI Legislature were convicted and sentenced to serve prison terms by the federal court in the so-called "Sumitomo Housing bribery scandal."

During the second decade of local self-government, the CNMI Finance secretary was indicted and sentenced in federal court for, among other things, unlawfully purchasing with a government-issued credit card a pair of expensive Ferragamo shoes for his personal use.

After that, about 15 years ago, two members of the CNMI Senate were convicted and sentenced in federal court for hiring and paying the salary of "ghost employees." No work was performed by the ghost employees.

Still later, about eight years ago, the CNMI lieutenant governor and two others were convicted and sentenced in federal court for the unlawful use of federal fund that was awarded the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. This was the embarrassing "Rydlime case" that shook the Commonwealth and put into serious doubt our political maturity as a self-governing commonwealth.

Aside from the foregoing corruption cases involving CNMI government officials, there have also been a number of federal indictments and convictions of private individuals for violating federal anti-corruption laws. They include those charged with the bribery of CNMI government officials, for payment of kickbacks to CNMI government officials, for unduly influencing CNMI government officials and procurement decisions, and so forth. Among these cases, to name a few, were the much-publicized corruption case against a Bank of Saipan chief executive officer, the corruption case for bribery and kickback against a mayor of Tinian, and a bribery case against several executives of a Saipan construction company.

These indictments and convictions of both private individuals and CNMI government officials are examples of the many bribery and unlawful kickback cases that were filed by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern Marianas over the past 38 years of CNMI self-government. Most of these cases involved corrupt acts committed by CNMI government officials, both elected and appointed.

■■■

On a per capita basis, the CNMI probably has one of the highest (if not the highest) rate of federal criminal convictions for local government corruption among all the jurisdictions in the United States—state, territorial, and commonwealth. One would think that after all of these criminal convictions during the past three decades, CNMI government officials would be more careful and more diligent in carrying out their duties and responsibilities as public officials. But for some strange reason that is hard to fathom, government corruption has not subsided to this day. Indeed, instead of declining, it appears that, over the past five or six years, there has actually been a resurgence of government corruption cases in the CNMI. This time, however, the corrupt acts being committed by CNMI government officials appear to be more deliberate and flagrant. It is as if Commonwealth government officials are actually daring the people of the CNMI (and anyone else who question their unlawful or unethical decisions and actions) that they can and will do whatever they please, and that the people might as well just sit back and watch the corruption that are openly being committed in front of them. The most egregious abuse of public office, of course, took place openly and flagrantly during the second term of former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Fortunately, the 18th CNMI Legislature saw what was going on, got disgusted with Gov. Fitial's shenanigans, and decided to do something about it. The CNMI House of Representative introduced and passed several articles of impeachment against him, many of which were for the corrupt acts he committed or permitted while in office and for violation of several CNMI laws. Facing conviction and ouster by the CNMI Senate, he resigned from office in disgrace.

Subsequently, as we are painfully aware, Fitial was charged by the Office of the Public Auditor with corruption in public office. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced by the CNMI court. His sentence, however, was commuted by his successor (his former lieutenant governor), so that he would not have to serve his prison term. One of the charges filed against him involved the eyebrow-raising "sweetheart contract" involving federal TARP funds that he quietly awarded (through sole-source contract) to his close friend, the Commerce secretary, without complying with CNMI procurement rules and regulations.

■■■

When the Inos-Hofschneider administration took over the reins of government soon after Fitial's resignation, the people of the CNMI had high hopes that our nightmare with CNMI government corruption and malfeasance in public office would end. But our hopes were immediately dashed as soon as the present Inos-Torres administration began its term in January 2014. From the very beginning, the Inos-Torres administration started undertaking a series of questionable actions and transactions that were openly contrary to the best interests of the people of the CNMI.

The most egregious of the government actions taken during the first year of the Inos-Torres term was the fly-by-night passage and signing into law of the exclusive casino gaming legislation. Against the express wishes of a very large majority of the people of the CNMI, and in concert with the Inos-Torres administration, the present 19th CNMI Legislature conveniently turned a deaf ear, closed its eyes, and passed the sweetheart exclusive gambling legislation with lightning speed. From the very beginning, this gaming legislation was intended to be awarded to one investor only, but the name of that investor was kept a big secret for a long time by those members of the CNMI Legislature who introduced the exclusive casino legislation. We later learned the name of the investor (Imperial Pacific dba Best Sunshine), but only many months after the exclusive casino gaming license legislation had been signed into law by the governor. Some semblance of competition appeared at the beginning in response to the government's "request for proposal" for the exclusive casino license. Indeed, two proposals were submitted, but the die was apparently already cast as to which proposal would eventually be awarded the exclusive casino gaming license. Indeed, there was hardly any competition for the exclusive license.

To make matters worse, ever since the exclusive casino license was awarded to Best Sunshine in 2014, the CNMI government, its departments and agencies (in particular the Department Public Lands, Historic Preservation, and others) have been literally bowing to and granting just about every request made to the CNMI government by Best Sunshine. For example, the initial exclusive casino legislation was amended several times since, all at the request of Best Sunshine. All of these amendments to the casino gaming legislation were passed by the majority of each house of the Legislature, with hardly any question or concern raised by CNMI government officials. The purpose of the several legislative amendments, of course, was to fine-tune the exclusive casino license legislation to fit the needs and desires of Best Sunshine. The legislative minority (about five or six of them), not having the votes to make any worthwhile opposition to the amendments requested by Best Sunshine, stood by the sidelines, helpless and unable to do anything. Among the subsequent amendments made by the 19th CNMI Legislature was the one giving permission to Best Sunshine so they could immediately start actual gaming operations at the T Galleria. Best Sunshine did not have to wait for the completion of the actual casino establishment that was proposed for construction. The excuse given by Best Sunshine for this particular amendment was so that it could begin actual training program for its casino dealers and staff.

■■■

Whenever the government uses its awesome powers to favor one particular investor and go against the best interest of the general public, corruption always rears its ugly head; in the process, public officials compromise their duties and obligations under the Constitution. When this happens, the laws are bent or are simply not followed. Whenever our leaders fail to uphold the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, they are violating their sacred oath of office. Whenever public officials commit corrupt acts flagrantly, openly, and against the best interest of the public, the people become aware of this fact and we have a duty and obligation to stop the acts of corruption being committed by our own public officials and remove them from office. If the people fail to take appropriate action, then these public officials will continue harming the public interest, and we have no one to blame but ourselves. The public must always remember that we voted our public officials into office and we have every power to remove them from office.

Corrupt leaders have no right to hold public office, for they have violated the public trust. Indeed, corrupt officials are like a disease that endangers and harms the very livelihood and wellbeing of the people. We should also be on guard that whenever our leaders put the best interest of investors, such as Best Sunshine, above the best interest of the people, it is time that we remove these public officials from office. We must be ready to admit whenever we make a serious mistake of voting corrupt people into office, and remove them from office when they commit corrupt acts, and then move on.

Ever since the exclusive casino license was awarded to Best Sunshine in 2014, the CNMI literally became a "Best Sunshine island." Best Sunshine officials, staff and employees have literally injected themselves into almost every facet of CNMI local government, semi-autonomous government agencies, and non-government organization activities: from the Executive Branch to the legislative branch, and downwards to the various government agencies. The CNMI Department of Public Lands, in particular, appears to grant every public land request that is made by Best Sunshine without batting an eye. It seems that Best Sunshine, as far as DPL is concerned, does not have to go through any competitive process in order to lease public lands.

This is in stark contrast to the case of Mariana Resort and Country Club that has invested millions and millions of dollars in the CNMI during the past 40 years. DPL instead is requiring that company to go through a request for proposal, so that Best Sunshine or one of its subsidiaries could also bid for the Marpi property that Kan Pacific has spent millions of dollars in golf course and hotel improvements. But as with everything involving Best Sunshine, all it needs to do is ask the CNMI government for something and its request will be granted, without any competitive bidding.

Most astonishingly, even if the land in question is ancient burial lands where the ancient Chamorro and Carolinians were buried hundreds of years ago, predating Chamorro contact with European civilization, DPL will close its eyes and allow Best Sunshine to use the property for Best Sunshine's exclusive casino operations. In dis-interring the remains of our early ancestors, DPL's arrogant message to the public is this: Our ancestors' burial grounds won't be respected because the money to be generated from the exclusive casino operation is more important than our ancestral heritage. Talk about arrogance and contempt for our people and our ancestors! These public officials apparently believe that they can openly commit such sacrilegious acts with impunity and get away with it. Do our public officials really think that the people of the CNMI are that stupid or are so blind so as to not understand the shenanigans that these officials are doing?

Just last week, we became frighteningly aware of how far our public officials would go to frustrate any attempt to have a clean government without corruption. This time the 19th CNMI Legislature passed one of the most dangerous and harmful legislation that we have seen in a long time. This legislation would exempt the Commonwealth Lottery Commission (and Best Sunshine) from the reach and requirements of the Open Government Act. The very introduction of this legislation, in itself, betrays an act of corruption by the Legislature, for the legislation would shield from public scrutiny any and all proceedings, hearings, deliberation, debates and records involving the Commonwealth Lottery Commission. The net effect of this legislation, which I have earlier called on the governor and lieutenant governor to veto, would be to keep secret and confidential any and all hearings, meetings and proceedings involving Best Sunshine. Meanwhile, all other government agencies and instrumentalities are required to conduct their meetings in public and all records of other agencies are subject to public inspection.

What is going on? Do we want to have more corruption in the Commonwealth? What are our present leaders doing? Do some of them want to go to jail, just like so many of our past public officials have ended up during the past 30 years? Do we want to continue the corrupt practices that so many of our public officials have engaged in over the years since we started local self-government? I hope not. But the only remedy we have in order to rectify these official wrongdoings lie in the hands of the people of the CNMI. We are the ones who can decide at the next general election whether we continue with the status quo in the way we run our government, or whether we are going to say "Enough is enough!" by voting for new leaders who are honest, responsible, capable and competent, and who have the best interests of the people at heart. Are we ready to take on this challenge, or are we doomed to continue with more corruption in public office?

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

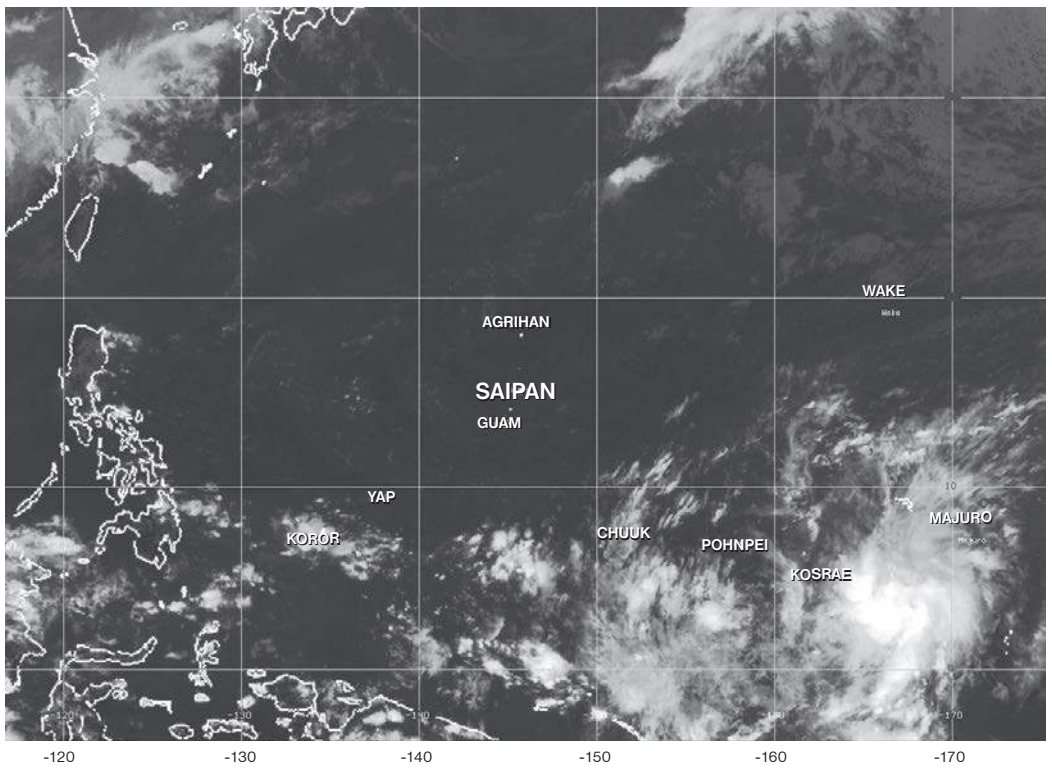
WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼75°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼75°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 1n133E to a tropical disturbance centered south of Kwajalein at 5N166E then continues southeastward to end at EQ171E. Widely-scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen southwest of Chuuk to south of Kosrae or south of a line from 7N145E to 3N165E. Clusters of moderate to strong thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are present south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 100 miles either side of a line from 07N167E to 02N170E. Widely scattered thunderstorms are present in the vicinity of Kwajalein Atoll as well.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲66	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼33
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73
London	Showers	▲60	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼44
Manila	Sunny	▲94	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼54
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼74
New York	Sunny	▲66	▼43
Osaka	Rain	▲71	▼62
Paris	Rain	▲62	▼57
Pusan	Showers	▲67	▼53
Rome	Sunny	▲67	▼52
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲63	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲67	▼45

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
12:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:43 AM	10:31 PM
Wednesday	11:32 AM	11:27 PM
Thursday	12:20 PM	
Friday	1:08 PM	12:23 AM
Saturday	1:55 PM	1:20 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
2D8009	1:55pm	5:15pm	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
2D8010	7:25pm	2:35am+1	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Man wins $35K jackpot at BSI casino

Lady Luck guided him all the way.

A 64-year-old construction worker found himself in unknown territory when he pulled off a big win in the slot machine Friday night at the Best Sunshine Live casino in Garapan.

Visibly shaken minutes after he hit the jackpot for $34,744.96, the Filipino worker could still not believe how he won with only one spin. He was betting $0.88 and he told himself, "It's now or never. Come what may!"

He said he had been going to the casino to relax but Friday the 13th proved to be lucky for him after all.

"I really thought I was going home with nothing. Then when I hit the button, there it was: jackpot! I could not believe it," the worker said.

His life has been riddled with challenges since he came to Saipan in 1985. He hasn't gone home since he got here. A native of Iriga, in Bicol province, Philippines, he said he was waiting for something good to happen to his life. Then it happened.

"I will buy back the property I lost back home and send money to my family," he said trying to hold back the tears of joy and excitement over his winning a hefty sum.

It was a belated birthday gift for the CW worker who turned 64 last June.

He recognized, too, that the win at Best Sunshine presented him with an opportunity to reconnect with his family and afforded him an ability to change his life for the better.

Dan Browne, Imperial Pacific International CNMI, LLC senior vice president for operations, was equally pleased with this latest win at the casino. "This is the second biggest jackpot. We are very happy. This is great for us."

The casino has been open for only four months and there have been several jackpots won by players, notably two big wins: $47,000 and $34,000.

Referring to the game that the winner played on Friday night, Browne said: "What is good about this game is the mystery bonus. You don't have to bet the maximum to win the maximum award."

The Best Sunshine Live casino has 106 state of the art machines offering the latest games. These machines have been drawing a huge number of players.

Browne was pleased that the casino had a huge turnout last Friday.

"We are happy that our customers have embraced our product and continue to do so. It is a nice, safe and clean place to enjoy," he said.

The casino also holds raffle drawing every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. It is another opportunity for players to win as much as $1,000. ***(BSI)***

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Former governor urges DPL to reconsider RFP policy

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"Sometimes public policy is not just a matter of dollars; it's a matter of sound public policy."

Thus said former governor Juan N. Babauta in urging the Department of Public Lands and the Inos administration to reconsider DPL's plan to solicit bids for expiring public land leases, which would affect the future of Kan Pacific's Mariana Resort and Spa.

"We want to urge the [DPL] secretary, we want to urge the governor, the lieutenant governor, to reconsider this policy," Babauta said in an interview during a gathering in Susupe to support Kan Pacific last Saturday.


Babauta

According to Babauta, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio has the discretion whether to issue a request for proposal or not.

"The secretary chose to issue an RFP, which, of course, that's his discretion, but all we're saying is that while he has that discretion, he could go either way. We're urging him to go our way," Babauta said.

"Obviously he made that decision to RFP because he thinks that you get more money in the issuance of RFP and giving it to the highest bidder," he added.

He pointed out that DPL is not bound by law to issue an RFP, nor will it violate any law if it doesn't.

"The decision to issue an RFP is a matter of internal policy. The secretary is not bound to issue an RFP. That was a decision made internally and there's no reason why he cannot make that decision to just give an extension of the lease or a renewal of the lease," Babauta said.



"He is not bound by CNMI law, he's not bound by the CNMI Constitution or any other legal authority that I know of," he said, adding that there is nothing in the Constitution that prohibits DPL from giving Kan Pacific a new lease.

He pointed out that Kan Pacific has been in the CNMI for 40 years and "have gone through all the good and bad times."

"When the economy was down, they were here, they stayed, they didn't run away," Babauta said.

With the dwindling number of tourists from Japan, removing a Japanese investor would also not be good, he added.

"It would not look good in the eyes of the world or anybody else, to be kicking out a Japanese investor and then going to Japan and inviting tourists to come here," Babauta said.

He said market diversification is better for the Commonwealth.

"There is no reason why we cannot support diversification in the economy. The worst thing we can do is to mold a monolithic economy. We want diversification. Diversification makes for a stable economy and that's what we're looking for. We want the CNMI to be stable, to have different people come here and we can have both," Babauta said.

"I just don't believe in chasing somebody out and replacing it with somebody else. Bring them all in and keep them all," he added.

Babauta urged people to tell DPL to "do the right thing" and to urge DPL and the government to extend the lease or give Kan Pacific a new lease. "It is good public policy, sound public policy, to have this lease renewed."

In the interest of full disclosure, Juan N. Babauta is the husband of Charlene Babauta, property manager of Mariana Resort and Spa.



Supporters hold up placards during a road-side waving to express their support for the renewal of Kan Pacific's lease, which expires in 2018. DAISY DEMAPAN




Rep. Ed Propst and family sign letters to the Legislature in support of Kan Pacific's lease renewal. DAISY DEMAPAN






Supporters sign petitions and letters to the Legislature to express their support for the continued business of Kan Pacific. DAISY DEMAPAN

Message of Appreciation

During the month of October, you joined the movement to end Domestic Violence. Your partnership and support sent a clear message that violence has NO place in our commonwealth. We salute YOU!

Although Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) has ended, much remains to be done. Thank you for embracing October as an opportunity to advocate for a safer home and community especially for our children. Ending the silence of domestic violence truly takes our collective voices. We hope you will continue to speak out with us and empower others to do so.

A very special acknowledgment and thanks going out to the individuals who bravely spoke out and shared their inspirational stories of courage and strength throughout the month. Their remarkable courage instilled a sense of hope and empowerment for many!

We recognize our first responders, service providers, and advocates who continue to work diligently to serve victims, survivors, and their families.

Last but not least, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) and the Family Violence Task Force (FVTF) express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the following volunteers, donors, and partners for their tremendous support during DVAM.

Hon. Governor Eloy S. Inos
Hon. Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres
Hon. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, Member, U.S. Congress
Hon. Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge
Malyssa Castro
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Calvani P. Deleon Guerrero
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CGC Crisis Counselors
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Cleo Nening
CNMI Board of Parole
CNMI Division of Probation
CNMI Youth Congress
Colleen Camacho
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Community Guidance Center
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Cylia Leon Guerrero
Dandan Community
David M. Calvo
Debra Inos
Dee Liza Udui
Delia Calvo
Delta Air Lines
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Department of Public Safety
Diana Camacho
Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
Division of Youth Services
Dixie Inos-Camacho
Domestic Violence Intervention Center
DPS - CBI & Traffic Section
DPS Color Guard
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior & Senior High School
DYS: Family & Youth Enhancement Program (Rota)
Edward Manibusan, Attorney General
Eloise Rose E. Lopez
Emi Williams
Erica Thornburgh
Fakie 0
Family Court (Rota)
Family Court, CNMI Superior Court
Felix U. Palacios
Femie Rey
Fiesta Resort & Spa
Flora Aguon
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Frankie Camacho
Grace Christian Assembly
Gwen Iguel
GY SGT Rodney S. Deleon Guerrero
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Jennifer Teigita
Jesse Aguon, CGC Acting Director
Jessica Barcinas
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Joanna Abraham
Joe Limes
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
John Del Rosario
John Heart Restaurant and Catering
John L. Aguon
Jonathan Tenorio
Josephine Basa
Joshua Castro
Julian R. Camacho
Kagman Community
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Oscar C. Torres
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Tan Siu Lin Foundation
U.S. Marine Corps
Urbano Babauta
Vera Jane Tudela
Vince Babauta
Vivian Sablan, DYS Administrator

Hundreds support 30th International Coastal Cleanup

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of volunteers joined the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the 30th International Coastal Cleanup this year.

According to Jihan S. Buniag, BECQ-Division of Coastal Resource Management education and outreach coordinator, about 500 volunteers showed up to clean their assigned beaches and cleanup sites.

"We hope that for next year we get more volunteers and involve more of the other schools," Buniag said.

A final count of how much trash was collected and how many supported the event will be determined this week.

"A lot of why data collection is important is that it tells us what type of marine debris is out there at a specific location and also where is it coming from. Is it land-based or is it water-based?" she said.

Buniag said most of the marine debris include items such as packing material, cigarette butts, plastic bottle caps, beverage bottles, beverage cans, personal hygiene items, fishing lines, ropes, as well as styrofoam plates, cups, and paper towels.

The data collected during the cleanup will be submitted to the Ocean Conservancy where they will incorporate it into a marine debris index along with the data collected from other participating countries, according to Buniag.

Among the few government agencies that joined this year's cleanup was the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which cleaned the area from 13 Fishermen's Monument to the Garapan Fishing Base.

According to DCCA Secretary Laura Ogumoro, about 20 of their employees participated in the cleanup, which they have been doing for about five years now.

"We want to participate in the cleanup and help maintain the beauty of our islands," Ogumoro said. "I think everybody should be invested in keeping our islands clean not only for the environment, keeping our environment healthy, but also economically it's advantageous."

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources covered the Bird Island beach but only a handful participated, according to fisheries biologist Mike Tenorio.

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club, which has been cleaning Paupau Beach for five years now, was joined this year by their youth counterparts from the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leos Club.

Best Sunshine International Ltd., which had more than 80 volunteers from various partners and organizations as well as their group of volunteers, cleaned up Oleai Beach to the 13 Fishermen's Monument in Garapan.

Other groups that participated were Saipan Southern High School YEA and My Wave Club who were assigned to Laly 4; the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary, which cleaned the beach near Aquarius to Sugar Dock; CTSI Logistics, Kanoa Resort, and Century Tours that cleaned Susupe Beach Park; 4H Club, which was assigned to the Civic Center; Saipan Paddling Club, assigned from the Naked Fish to Oleai Beach Bar; Century Insurance, which cleaned the area from TSL Plaza to Garapan Fishing Base; Fiesta Resort, which cleaned Makaka Beach; Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, assigned to Tanapag Beach; Kagman High School, assigned to Marine Beach; Northern Marianas College, which cleaned Laolao Bay; POI Aviation, which cleaned Ladder Beach; and NMDOA, which cleaned Managaha Isand.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International's team of volunteers had about 80 participants cleaning the beach side from Naked Fish to 13 Fishermen's Monument.



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is among the few government agencies that join the International Coastal Cleanup this year.



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club stand behind the trash they collected in Paupau Beach.



JON PEREZ

Employees and family members of Tan Holdings volunteer to join the International Coastal Cleanup.



JON PEREZ

Tan Holdings executives and employees collected bags of marine debris from their adopted beach at the back of TSL Plaza in Garapan.



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

DCCA volunteers deliver the trash they collected at the Garapan Fishing Base to be weighed and itemized.

Business

Paris air travel proceeds, but some canceling future visits

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Even as airlines operated a normal schedule of flights into and out of Paris on Saturday, travelers with future plans to visit the French capital reconsidered their options after a series of terror attacks. Some quickly canceled their tickets, a worrisome sign for the travel and tourism industries.

Joe Nardozzi, a 31-year-old New York investment banker, and his wife won't be taking the wedding-anniversary trip they planned later this month.

"I have no interest in losing my life over a trip to Paris," he said.

Travel agents said some clients called to cancel trips, and one advocacy group for business travelers predicted that corporations would let frightened employees do the same.

On Friday night, terrorists with guns and suicide vests carried out coordinated attacks across Paris that left at least 129 people dead and more than 350 injured. The targets, including a cafe and a concert hall, were the types of places that attracted a young crowd and in-the-know travelers. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Decisions by companies and leisure travelers could hinge on whether the Paris attacks are seen as a one-time event or the vanguard of a stepped-up campaign by Islamic radicals. Islamic State, the group fighting in Syria and Iraq, also claimed last month that it bombed a Russian passenger jet over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, although investigators have not determined the cause of the crash that killed 224 people.

High tensions after the attacks could be seen at airports across Europe on Saturday.

A Paris-bound Air France jet was evacuated at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport after authorities received a threatening tweet. A terminal at London's Gatwick Airport was shut down for hours after a man was seen throwing away what looked like a gun.

Paris airport authority Aeroports de Paris said all flights were operating normally Sunday, but that travelers should give themselves more time because of heightened security measures.

Air France said it would operate all upcoming flights to and from France but that delays were expected because of increased security at airports, including Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport.

U.S. authorities said that they had nothing to add to Friday's comment by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson that officials didn't know of any specific or credible terror threats against the United States.

United Airlines and Delta Air Lines said that all their flights between the U.S. and Paris operated on Saturday. American Airlines said all its flights would run too except a Paris-to-Dallas flight—that plane remained in Dallas when the Paris-bound leg was canceled Friday night.

Veterans often need to adjust communications style when re-entering civilian workforce

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: After leaving the military, I accepted a supervisory position in a large corporation. I thought everything was going well until my boss told me that people say I'm "too gruff" and I embarrass them in public. He cited the example of my telling another supervisor that he was doing a poor job of updating records and needed to get it fixed ASAP.

Because of my military training, I do tend to be somewhat directive when dealing with problems, but I have no desire to humiliate anyone. None of the people who complained has ever spoken to me about this directly. Since most of them are buddies who work out with my boss at the gym, I'm wondering if favoritism could be involved.

A: Actually, your dilemma is not at all unusual. While the military is a superb training ground for many things, veterans often face an adjustment period in organizations where the culture is less hierarchical and communication is less direct. To make a successful transition, they must learn to adapt to different expectations.

For example, a less demanding approach would have been more appropriate with the supervisor who was behind in his record-keeping. From your viewpoint, you were simply addressing an obvious problem. But your colleague felt you were giving him orders, which is not how one typically communicates with peers in a business setting.

Instead of finding reasons to discredit this feedback, talk with your boss or a helpful mentor about ways to modify your communication style. If you know other veterans who have navigated this territory, see if they have some helpful tips. Of course, transition issues are hardly limited to the military, since people who switch sectors or industries often have similar experiences.

Q: My boss, the corporate controller, seems to be engaging in some very sketchy behavior. This is an extremely small office, so phone conversations can be easily overheard. A few weeks ago, I heard "Rick" talking to a woman who had been arrested for prostitution. He was apparently worried because the hotel room was in his name.

Recently, when our president expressed concern that someone had been in the warehouse after hours, Rick confided that he had given his key to a friend. Also, our company has experienced check fraud, and one check was made out to someone with my last name. Rick said it's no big deal, but this really bothers me. What should I do?

A: When the controller is consorting with prostitutes, giving friends unauthorized access to company facilities and taking a casual attitude towards check fraud, the signs of impending trouble seem pretty clear. If you have a good relationship with the president, you might consider sharing these concerns with him.

But if that seems risky, it's time to polish up your resume and find a safer place to work. This is especially true if your job involves handling company funds, because you don't want to get inadvertently snared in some underhanded financial scheme. Should you believe that may have already happened, then consulting an attorney would be the logical next step.

Nation

Amid student protests, some seeing erosion of free speech

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A recent groundswell of protests on college campuses over race, sexual misconduct and other social issues has some civil libertarians worried that the prized principle of free speech could be sacrificed in the rush to address legitimate student grievances.

The potential conflict between the protection of civil rights and the constitution's First Amendment guarantees was on display at the University of Missouri in Columbia last week when students, supported by the football team, forced the resignation of system president Tim Wolfe over racial incidents and other problems on campus that they felt he had failed to take seriously. While their campaign drew widespread support and inspired similar demonstrations at colleges across the country, it also prompted a backlash from critics who said some actions went too far.



AP

In this Nov. 9, 2015, file photo, a member of the black student protest group Concerned Student 1950 gestures while addressing a crowd following the announcement that University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe would resign, at the university in Co-

A Missouri assistant professor supportive of the student protests blocked a student photographer from an area where demonstrators had set up a tent city, a move which infringed freedom of the press. The student protesters quickly reversed the media ban, saying the incident had been a "teachable moment" for them.

Also, university police encouraged students to report any "hateful and/or hurtful" speech they experienced for investigation, leaving the impression that any comment considered offensive could be a crime. Free speech advocates complained and police clarified that offensive language alone would not be treated as a hate crime.

After dog's death, an effort to ban guns to put pets down

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—The death of a brown-and-white, mixed breed named Bruno on the northern fringe of New Hampshire's White Mountains has sparked an angry response from animal rights activists who want to ban owners from using a gun to "put down" old, sick or dangerous dogs.

"It was done in such a cruel manner. The dog was shot multiple times and left to die," said Katie Treamer, one of the founders of Justice For Bruno, a group lobbying to make it a felony to shoot a pet to death in New Hampshire. "In this day and age, it's just not a responsible way to euthanize a pet."

A humanely placed bullet is a generations-old method of dispatching pets in rural parts of the country where a veterinarian's syringe can be expensive and hours away. And even those angry at how Bruno died say outlawing the practice isn't likely because it is so deeply ingrained in the nation's agrarian traditions, where farmers and ranchers have long put down domestic animals with a gunshot.

New Hampshire is among 27 states plus the District of Columbia that have no laws governing "emergency euthanasia," according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Justice For Bruno has contacted state officials and its change.org petition has more than 36,000 signatures in support of a new law.

State Rep. John Tholl, who lives in New Hampshire's north country and chairs the House public safety committee, said a ban on shooting a pet as a form of euthanasia faces long odds, especially in rural states.

"It's been common practice for people up here to put down their animals—not just dogs—because they're hurt in such a way that they can't be saved or they're so old that they need to be relieved of suffering," Tholl said. "And the cost to do that through a vet is quite expensive."

The dog whose death prompted calls for new legislation, however, was not injured.

Future uncertain for rare white deer at former weapons site

ROMULUS, N.Y. (AP)—Hundreds of ghostly white deer roaming among overgrown munitions bunkers at a sprawling former Army weapons depot face an uncertain future after living and breeding largely undisturbed since the middle of last century.

The white deer—a genetic quirk that developed naturally on the 7,000-acre, fenced-in expanse—have thrived, even as the depot itself has transitioned from one of the most important Cold War storehouses of bombs and ammunition to a decommissioned relic.

Now, as local officials seek to put the old Seneca Army Depot up for bids next month, there is concern that the sale could also mean the end of the line for the unusual white deer. A group of residents dedicated to saving the animals has proposed turning the old depot into a world-class tourist attraction to show off both its rich military history and its unusual wildlife. The Nature Conservancy also is looking at options for preserving the largely undeveloped landscape.

"When we ran bus tours on a limited basis between 2006 and 2012, we had people come from all over the United States to see the deer," said Dennis Money of Seneca White Deer Inc. "People are enchanted by them."

The white deer owe their continued existence to 24 miles of rusting chain-link perimeter fencing that went up when the depot was built in 1941, capturing several dozen wild white-tailed deer in the area's extensive woodlands. The white deer are natural genetic variants of the normal brown ones. They're not albinos, which lack all pigment, but are leucistic, lacking pigment only in their fur.

In the wild, white deer are short-lived, being easy targets for predators and hunters looking for a unique trophy. Small herds of white fallow deer roam protected sites in Ireland and on the campus of the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, but the Seneca Army Depot has the largest known population of white white-tailed deer, Money said.

Asia

US-China rivalry, Paris terror in spotlight at Manila summit

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thorny American ties with China and the Paris terrorist attacks are expected to grab attention from trade issues at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that will be held under extra-heavy security in the Philippine capital this week.

President Barack Obama and the leaders of China, Japan, Mexico and other nations in the 21-member APEC bloc will converge along with 7,000 officials, CEOs and other participants on a convention center by Manila Bay. Several days of meetings culminate with a 2-day summit of leaders beginning Wednesday.

Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, will skip the Manila meetings, partly to focus on an investigation into the Oct. 31 crash of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt that killed all 224 people on board. He will be represented by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo will likely be kept away by domestic problems too, according to Philippine officials.

Founded in 1989 in Canberra, Australia, APEC aims to demolish barriers to trade and investment through nonbinding accords. The unwieldy grouping of countries and self-governing territories that range from liberal democracies to dictatorships accounts for three billion people, half of global trade and 60 percent of world GDP.

Critics say APEC has few concrete achievements because of its nonbinding status. They dub it a talk shop and joke the acronym means "A Perfect Excuse to Chat." But proponents believe those qualities are its strengths.

"That's exactly the beauty of APEC, you don't have to worry about committing yourself to anything because it's nonbinding," Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said. "It gives leaders the freedom to bounce ideas, new ideas."

APEC's agenda this year focuses on trade and economic concerns, including current worries over Asia's slackening growth. Members of the bloc are reluctant to have it address divisive security and geopolitical issues. But complex rifts and political strife often overshadow the annual show of unity that is symbolized by the photo-op of leaders dressed in a quirky or traditional shirt provided by the host country.

Friday's attacks in Paris that killed at least 129 people have already created a dilemma for APEC. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attacks on a stadium, a concert hall and Paris cafes.

Real challenge for Myanmar opposition head comes after polls

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Winning Myanmar's election turned out to be easier than expected for Aung San Suu Kyi and her opposition party, but steering the country will be a test of how the Nobel Peace laureate balances her moral vision with political realities.

Almost complete returns released by the Election Commission by Sunday showed Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy with a whopping majority that gives it control of the lower and upper houses of Parliament, along with enough votes to dictate who will be president when the new lawmakers convene their first session next year.

"The election result represents the people's retribution against the military, which kept them under its boots for decades," said Aung Din, a former political prisoner and prominent journalist. He added that the extent of Suu Kyi's victory stunned everyone—the NLD, the military and the world's foremost experts on Myanmar like himself.

Myanmar was under military rule from 1962 until 2011, when the elected but army-backed party took power after 2010 elections, which were boycotted by the NLD.

With the military automatically allotted 25 percent of the seats in each chamber, the NLD had to win two-thirds of the seats being contested to get the majority—not just 50 percent plus one. It met its mark easily. By Sunday morning, it had won about 78 percent of the combined houses—387 of the 498 non-military seats, while the ruling military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party had just 41.

Suu Kyi won points in the past by confronting the military, but now that they will be partners in ruling the country, she will need the generals on her side in order to push through her party's agenda. At the same time, she has to meet the huge expectations of her supporters for dramatic reforms.

"How will the public perceive her after she had to make compromises with political players that are deeply disliked and mistrusted?" asked Michael Buehler, a lecturer in Southeast Asian politics at the University of London. "Can she remain the country's moral authority now that she has to make politics?"

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: UN chief to visit North Korea this week

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Pyongyang this week for a possible meeting with leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean news report said. The possible trip comes six months after Pyongyang at the last minute canceled an invitation for Ban to visit a factory park in the North Korean city of Kaesong. Ban has said North Korea gave no reason for the cancellation. He had not planned to visit Pyongyang at that time. Yonhap news agency cited an unidentified source in the U.N. when it reported Sunday about Ban's Pyongyang trip. It gave no details on the purpose of the trip or the day it would take place. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said he had no comment.

25 bodies found after landslide hits east China village

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from a landslide that buried homes in eastern China has risen to 25 people with 12 others still missing, a local government said Monday. A torrent of mud and rocks unleashed by heavy rains buried nearly 30 homes in a village in Zhejiang province on Friday night. The Lishui city government, which administers Lidong village, where the landslide happened, said that 25 bodies had been found as well as one survivor, who was in stable condition.

Afghan official: Drone strike kills 12 Taliban in southeast

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says a drone strike killed 12 Taliban fighters in a volatile district bordering Pakistan. Ahmad Zai Abdulzai, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said Sunday the dead included three Afghans and nine foreigners, usually a reference to Pakistanis. The strike late Saturday took place in Khogyani district, where insurgents have been active for months. Abdulzai says the Taliban's shadow governor for the district was among the dead. The region is also known for the presence of fighters loyal to the Islamic State group, who have fought with Taliban and government forces this year.

World

France bombs Islamic State HQ, hunts attacker who got away

PARIS (AP)—France launched "massive" air strikes on the Islamic State group's de-facto capital in Syria Sunday night, destroying a jihadi training camp and a munitions dump in the city of Raqqa, where Iraqi intelligence officials say the attacks on Paris were planned.

Twelve aircraft including 10 fighter jets dropped a total of 20 bombs in the biggest air strikes since France extended its bombing campaign against the extremist group to Syria in September, a Defense Ministry statement said. The jets launched from sites in Jordan and the Persian Gulf, in coordination with U.S. forces.

Meanwhile, as police announced seven arrests and hunted for more members of the sleeper cell that carried out the Paris attacks that killed 129 people, French officials revealed to The Associated Press that several key suspects had been stopped and released by police after the attack.

The arrest warrant for Salah Abdeslam, a 26-year-old born in Brussels, calls him very dangerous and warns people not to intervene if they see him.

Yet police already had him in their grasp early Saturday, when they stopped a car carrying three men near the Belgian border. By then, hours had passed since authorities identified Abdeslam as the renter of a Volkswagen Polo that carried hostage takers to the Paris theater where so many died.

Three French police officials and a top French security official confirmed that officers let Abdeslam go after checking his ID. They spoke on condition of anonymity, lacking authorization to publicly disclose such details.

Tantalizing clues about the extent of the plot have emerged from Baghdad, where senior Iraqi officials told the AP that France and other countries had been warned on Thursday of an imminent attack.

An Iraqi intelligence dispatch warned that Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had ordered his followers to immediately launch gun and bomb attacks and take hostages inside the countries of the coalition fighting them in Iraq and Syria.

The Iraqi dispatch, which was obtained by the AP, provided no details on when or where the attack would take place, and a senior French security official told the AP that French intelligence gets these kinds of warnings "all the time" and "every day."

World leaders vow vigorous response after Paris terror spree

ANTALYA, Turkey (AP)—World leaders vowed a vigorous response to the Islamic State group's terror spree in Paris as they opened a two-day meeting in Turkey on Sunday, with President Barack Obama calling the violence an "attack on the civilized world" and Russian President Vladimir Putin urging "global efforts" to confront the threat.

But beyond the tough talk and calls for action, there was little indication of how leaders intended to escalate the assault on the extremist group. The attacks in the heart of Europe—combined with earlier incidents in Lebanon and Turkey, as well as the downing of a Russian airliner in Egypt—suggest the Islamic State is reaching beyond its base in Iraq and Syria, an expansion the West has feared.

"The skies have been darkened by the horrific attacks that took place in Paris just a day and a half ago," Obama said shortly after arriving in Antalya, a seaside resort city just a few hundred miles from the Syrian border. He waved off a question from reporters about whether he would authorize additional action against IS.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the summit host, pledged leaders would produce a "strong message" about fighting international terrorism, though he, too, did not spell out specific steps.

Putin urged nations to pool their efforts to combat terrorism, adding that the fight must respect international law, the U.N. Charter and each nation's sovereign rights and interests.

"We understand very well that it's only possible to deal with the terror threat and help millions of people who lost their homes by combining efforts of the entire global community," Putin said.

While U.S. officials said Obama viewed the attacks in France as an act of war, they cautioned he had no plans to overhaul his strategy for dismantling the Islamic State group and said he remained staunchly opposed to an American ground war in Syria. Instead, they foreshadowed an expansion of steps the U.S. is already taking, namely airstrikes and train-and-equip missions for rebels inside Syria.

New ideas to tackle Syria refugee crisis: Investing, not aid

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Bold new ideas for helping Syrian refugees and their overburdened Middle Eastern host countries are gaining traction among international donors, shocked into action by this year's migration of hundreds of thousands of desperate Syrians to Europe.

Rather than struggling to gather humanitarian aid for refugees, the plans center around investing billions of dollars, much of it to be raised on financial markets. The money would go for development in countries such as Jordan and Lebanon to improve lives for both their own populations and refugees.

More controversial is a demand by some in the aid community that, in return for such a "Mideast Marshall Plan," Jordan and Lebanon must allow Syrian refugees to work, integrating them more into society. The host countries, however, point to high domestic unemployment in arguing they cannot put large numbers of refugees to work legally.

"We need to be ambitious," the regional chief of the World Bank, Ferid Belhaj, told The Associated Press. "Development is the key."

The need for alternative plans may have become more urgent, with the Paris terror attacks further heating the debate over Europe's immigration policy. A Syrian passport, processed in Greece and registered in the Balkan countries, was found near one of the Paris suicide bombers, raising the possibility one of the assailants may have crossed into Europe with refugees fleeing Syria.

The mass influx of Syrians to Europe has been driven by increasingly unbearable conditions in Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon. That has drawn attention to long-ignored warnings that the traditional aid approach has fallen short in the most devastating refugee crisis in a generation, said Belhaj and others.

Under the traditional approach, the U.N. and other international agencies are the main pillar of care for refugees, either by financing camps to house them or by providing them food aid and stipends to live off of.

Overdrive

Aston Martin lives up to Bond's image: Sleek, refined

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Aston Martin DB9 GT—like the international man of mystery who gave the English car company its fame—is a smooth operator. Silky and sleek, neither shaken nor stirred, James Bond's favorite car has the power to make any driver want to slip on a tuxedo and strap on a Walther PPK.

Outfitted with a massive 6.0-liter V-12 engine, the DB9 GT produces 540 horsepower and 457 pound-feet of torque. Capable of a top speed of 183 miles per hour, Aston Martin says, it goes from zero to 60 in 4.4 seconds.

But even in sport mode, under heavy acceleration, the DB9 is mellow—as if saying, "No need to hurry, old chap."

That's partly the work of the car's Touchtronic II six-speed paddle shift transmission, a gentle variation on the sharper PDK system used by Porsche—maybe the best semi-automatic shift on the market.

The Touchtronic slurs from gear to gear, imbuing a sensation of refinement and restraint, rather than the precise snap of the PDK.

On the road, the DB9 GT feels solid and sturdy, and even a little stodgy—not entirely surprising, given the 4,000-pound weight of the Volante convertible version. In the twisties, even with the suspension tuned to sport mode, the handling is a bit sloppy.

But just listen to it. Upon start-up, and with sport mode engaged, the DB9 GT's exhaust bypass valve opens, uncorking a delicious, throaty muffler note that's one of the automotive world's most beautiful sounds.

And look at it! Top up or top down, the Aston Martin's long hood, rounded shoulders and sinuous belt line are a portrait in refined power.

The interior is English, drawing room elegance. The wrap-around leather, from steering wheel cover to dash to door panels to form-fitted seats, gives the car a rich, masculine feel, offset by the discreet use of wood paneling and chrome detail.

The amenities are minimal. There are seat heaters, but no seat ventilation. The sun visor is the smallest I've seen on any car except the Aston Martin Vantage S, and the cup holders won't cradle anything larger than an espresso—reminders, perhaps, that English and European drivers aren't constantly lapping up the latte when they drive, and that the sun doesn't shine quite as brightly in London as it does in Los Angeles.

To that point, some DB models actually come with a "boot-mounted umbrella." (That's "trunk-mounted," Yanks.) The one we borrowed didn't come with the umbrella, but it did have Velcro straps in the trunk to hold the bumbershoot in place.

And though the DB9 GT doesn't come with any 007-style top secret features—the ejector seat, onboard machine guns or rocket launchers, or cloaking devices on Bond's earlier Aston Martins—it does have a pair of automatically deploying roll bars, in case the driver gets too frisky and flips over.

The DB9 GT, which plays on its Bond connection with ad lines such as "Licensed to thrill," was first introduced in 2004. It has been the most successful Aston Martin in the company's history.

Despite that, the 2016 model will be its last. The next in the DB line—which has been the badge on exquisite sports cars since the 1950s—will be the DB11. It is likely to be a 2017 vehicle, and to have a great resemblance to the DB10, the custom-made car that will not be sold but can be seen in the new Bond movie "Spectre."

Bond requisitions his vehicles, and then typically destroys them while pursuing the agents of evil. For the rest of us, the Aston Martin costs money—lots of money.

This DB9 GT has a starting MSRP of $217,000. The Volante convertible I drove, with an $8,000 Bang and Olafson sound system, goes for $228,800.

That puts it in the ultra-premium range, and up against some extremely impressive sports cars. A Ferrari 458 or McLaren 650 S doesn't cost much more than that. A Porsche 911 GT3 costs less. You could buy three Jaguar F-Types for the same money, or two Mercedes Benz AMG GTs.

Those are all great cars. But none of them has the Bond imprimatur.



The 2016 Aston Martin DB9 GT Volante has a top speed of 183 miles per hour and goes from zero to 60 in 4.4 seconds.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Aston Martin DB9 GT

- Our take: Smooth, sophisticated and super-spendy
- Highs: The world's best-sounding sports car
- Lows: Too sluggish, too stodgy, too British
- Vehicle type: Two-door, four-seat convertible
- Base price: $217,775
- Price as tested: $228,930
- Powertrain: 6.0-liter V-12 engine
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic with paddle shifters
- Horsepower: 540
- Torque: 457 pound-feet
- Zero to 60 mph: 4.4 seconds
- EPA fuel economy rating: 13 mpg city / 19 highway / 15 combined

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Alfred
Delos Reyes Gonzales Jr.

Born to life on March 28, 1976 and called to
Eternal life on November 10, 2015



In his new life, he now joins his:
Mother: †Maria DLR. Gonzales
Brother: †Vincent Peter DLR. Gonzales
Maternal Grandfather: †Tomas Palacios Sablan
Maternal Grandmother: †Lucia Pangelinan Delos Reyes
Paternal Grandfather: †Rufino Gonzales
Paternal Grandmother: †Gregoria A. Gonzales
Godfathers: †Crispin Matagolai Kaipat, †Luis Baza Matagolai
Father-in-Law: †Antonio L. Kaipat

His memories will live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Lynette Yvonne Castro-Gonzales
Beautiful Children: Thomas, Isabel, Tammie, Angel, Rufino Denzel II, Alfred Jr. II, Maria and Celina
Father & Step Mother: Alfredo A. and Ofelia Gonzales
Brothers, Sister, In-laws and Children:
John Oliver DLR. & Charlene S. Gonzales (Genzo Matua, Seiji Magalahi , Kiyokazu Magas)
Joseph DLR. Gonzales & Nicolette Sablan (Javian, Emily, Ha'ani Rose, Remy Marie A. & Ray Ada (Austin, Avah) Al-Jay A. & Alexandria F. Gonzales (Aleah, Alec), Lucille A. Gonzales (Haani Jade), James A. & Kaysha A. Gonzales (Jaysha)
Susan Gonzales & Larry Q. Babauta (Christopher Joshua, Christian Jacob, Charles Joseph, Evangeline (Lia) Jade)
Charlie DLR. & Bernadette A. Gonzales (Brandon, Shayne, Mariah)
Christopher DLR. Gonzales & Janel Pangelinan (Eddie Joe, Leanica, Kehana, Christopher Jr., Bethany, Alejandria, Brooke, Britney, Brianna)
Godmother: Magdalena DLR Kaipat
Aunts and Uncles:
†Gregorio P. Delos Reyes & Maria Elizabeth Camacho & Children
Josepha DLR. & Ramon Kapileo & Children
Jose S. & Sherry Castro & Children (Guam)
†Soledad S. Sablan & Francisco Basa & Children
†Vicente S. & Maria Muna Sablan & Children
†Faustina S. Sablan & Fernando M. Benavente & Children
†Gregorio S. & Victoria M. Sablan & Children
†Jesus S. & Rita DLG. Sablan & Children
Ana S. Sablan & Henry Indalecio & Children
Juana C. Sablan & Daniel T Muña & Children
†Manuel C. & Chong C. Sablan & Children
Natividad C. Sablan & Children
†Rita C. Sablan & Rafael Mettao & Children
Matilde C. Sablan & †Martin M. Taisacan & Children
Maria C. Sablan & Juan Ada & Children
Isabel C. Sablan & Melchor Maratita & Children
†Tomas C. & †Frances M. Sablan & Children
†Joaquin C. & Grace Sablan & Children
Margarita C. Sablan & Jose Castro & Children
Pedro C. & Ignacia M. Sablan & Children
Bernadita C. Sablan & Isidro Cabrera & Children
Mother-in-Law: Celina Castro Kaipat
Brother & Sisters-in-Laws and Children:
Evelyn & Lawrence Concepcion (Jacques, Jonathan, Balbina)
John Gerald (Clayton, John II, Noecia)
Antoinette Kaipat & Jess Wabol (Yalina, Wallis, Aurora)
Pearl Kaipat & Joseph Shaun Santos (Ignacio, Sinahi)
Antonio Kaipat, II & Magdalena F. (Cassidee, Oliveeah, Edward II) (Kansas)



His loving spirits and fun, humble and positive personality will forever love in the hearts of those who loved him near and far.

Rosary is being said nightly at Santa Soledad Church at 5:30pm. The late Alfred's remains will depart CHC morgue on November 18, 2015 at 7:30am and will proceed to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Last respects will be held from 8:30 to 10:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, and he will be laid to rest at the Mount Carmel Cemetery thereafter.

Si Yu'us Ma'ásí', Ghilisoow, Gratefully from the Family.

Life & Style

Student's horrific, fatal rape inspires 'India's Daughter'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In December 2012, a 23-year-old medical student on the brink of a new life went to a movie with a friend. Within two weeks, she was dead of horrific injuries she suffered that night in a gang rape.

The tragedy is given careful and wrenching examination in "India's Daughter," a potent documentary that's unsparing in detailing both Jyoti Singh's assault and the corrosive social and cultural attitudes that, as filmmaker Leslee Udwin sees it, share culpability with her attackers.

"They are not monsters, they are human," she said. "They've been programmed by what they've seen around them, what they've been told a good girl is, what manhood is.... They are not rotten apples in a barrel—the barrel itself is rotten."

It was the Indian public's outburst of anger over the attack, with Singh made an immediate symbol of the nation's too-often unanswered violence against women, that propelled TV and movie producer Udwin to take on her first documentary.

"India's Daughter," which includes Susan Sarandon among its executive producers, airs 10 p.m. EST Monday on PBS' "Independent Lens."

"I saw something utterly unique take place, and that was the response to the rape. As a rape victim, at age 18, I took it personally," Udwin said of the protests that rocked India.

"I thought, 'How extraordinary that the world has not yet done this, has not yet shown a mobilization for something that is so prevalent in our world, so iniquitous and so completely abandoned by meaningful focus,'" said Udwin, who lives in Denmark.


Udwin

Her film, which has aired to acclaim in a number of countries, was banned from Indian TV in the interest of maintaining public order, according to authorities there.

"Making this documentary was my way of joining the protest, my way of holding a megaphone to those beautiful voices that I was so awe-struck by," Udwin said by phone. "India's Daughter" is, as well, a sadly tender record of one life lost, that of a bright, beloved daughter.

On the day of the attack, a Sunday, Jyoti Singh was home from school with her studies just completed and an internship awaiting her. She was upbeat as she assured her parents that better times were ahead for her working-class family that had struggled to pay for her education.

"'Mum, dad, now you don't have to worry any more,'" her mother recounts her saying. "Your little girl is a doctor. Now everything will be fine."

That evening, Singh and a male friend went to see "The Life of Pi" at a New Delhi mall and then boarded a private bus about 8 p.m. to go home, unaware it was filled with joy-riding men. They beat her and her companion, and then took turns raping Singh for hours as the bus moved through the capital city's streets.

Finally, the attackers shoved an iron rod into her body and threw their naked victims on to a road. Doctors operated repeatedly but couldn't repair Singh's massive internal damage and brain and other injuries.

Her last words, as recalled by her mother: "Sorry, Mummy. I gave you so much trouble. I am sorry."

There are no photos or video of Singh in the documentary. Her parents wanted her name to be known, despite India's ban on identifying rape victims, but have kept her image to themselves, with a single portrait hanging in their home, Udwin said.

But the film repeatedly shows viewers the entrenched attitudes that place responsibility for sexual violence squarely on its female victims, including the dismaying paternalism of a defense attorney who compares women to a gem that, if put on the street, "certainly the dog" will seize it.

In a jailhouse interview, one of Singh's convicted attackers gets his chance to be heard.

"A decent girl won't roam around at 9 o'clock at night. A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy," says Mukesh Singh. "Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes."

Appeals of the death sentence handed down against him and three others in the case are pending in India's Supreme Court.

Sarandon says other countries, including her own United States, aren't off the hook.

"What happened in India is so dramatic and such a loss and so horrifying, but it's happening all over," the Oscar-winning actress and activist said, then predicted optimistically that "the next century is going to be all about women and violence, and women in positions of power."

Udwin can't wait. She said Singh's tragedy compelled her to create the nonprofit Equality Studies Global Initiative, aimed at developing what she calls an urgently needed curriculum for boys and girls to end the "disease" of inequality, gender and otherwise.

"We haven't taught them respect, the value of every human being, or the empathy that is so utterly crucial," Udwin said.

'Spectre' stays on top with $35.4M; 'Peanuts' with $24.2M

NEW YORK (AP)—The box-office duo of James Bond and Charlie Brown again dominated North American movie theaters over the weekend, while Angelina Jolie Pitt's "By the Sea" made barely a ripple.

Sony's "Spectre," the 24th Bond installment and last week's top film, took in $35.4 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Daniel Craig's fourth Bond film has most flexed its muscles abroad, where the majority of its $500 million-plus two-week global haul has come from. It got a boost, too, over the weekend in China, where it debuted with $48 million—the best opening for a 2-D, U.S. release in China, Sony said.

"The Peanuts Movie," from 20th Century Fox, remained in second place with $24.2 million. Both it and "Spectre" held strongly in their second weeks. "The Peanuts Movie" has grossed $82.5 million thus far.

Of the new releases, the Christmas comedy "Love the Coopers"—a family holiday gathering directed by Jessie Nelson and starring an ensemble including Diane Keaton and Alan Arkin—fared the best. It took in $8.4 million for CBS Films.

1. **"Spectre,"** $35.4 million *($152.6 million international).*
2. **"The Peanuts Movie,"** $24.2 million *($2.5 million international).*
3. **"Love the Coopers,"** $8.4 million.
4. **"The Martian,"** $6.7 million *($5.3 million international).*
5. **"The 33,"** $5.8 million.
6. **"Goosebumps,"** $4.7 million *($2.4 million international).*
7. **"Bridge of Spies,"** $4.3 million *($1.2 million international).*
8. **"Prem Ratan Dhan Payo,"** $2.4 million *($31 million international).*
9. **"Hotel Transylvania 2,"** $2.4 million *($8.9 million international).*
10. **"The Last Witch Hunter,"** $1.5 million *($5.2 million international).*

Warner Bros.' Chilean miner drama, "The 33," earned a middling $5.8 million. Though the 2010 disaster, which trapped 33 miners underground, riveted the world for 69 days, moviegoers showed little interest in a dramatized version of the event starring Antonio Banderas and Lou Diamond Phillips.

Universal Pictures considerably scaled back the release of the poorly reviewed "By the Sea," a marital drama starring Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt. Playing in just 10 theaters, it made only $95,440. The third film directed by Jolie Pitt, who also wrote the script, "By the Sea" was made for a modest $10 million, so it won't hurt Universal much, but proved surprisingly unappealing to moviegoers despite starring two of Hollywood's biggest stars.

C-3P0 actor Anthony Daniels on playing the 'Star Wars' droid

NEW YORK (AP)—While Anthony Daniels may be one of the most unrecognized actors in the 'Star Wars' universe, he portrays one of the franchise's most known characters.

His C-3PO droid, along with its R2D2 robot counterpart, have the distinction of being in all seven 'Star Wars' movies, including the upcoming "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

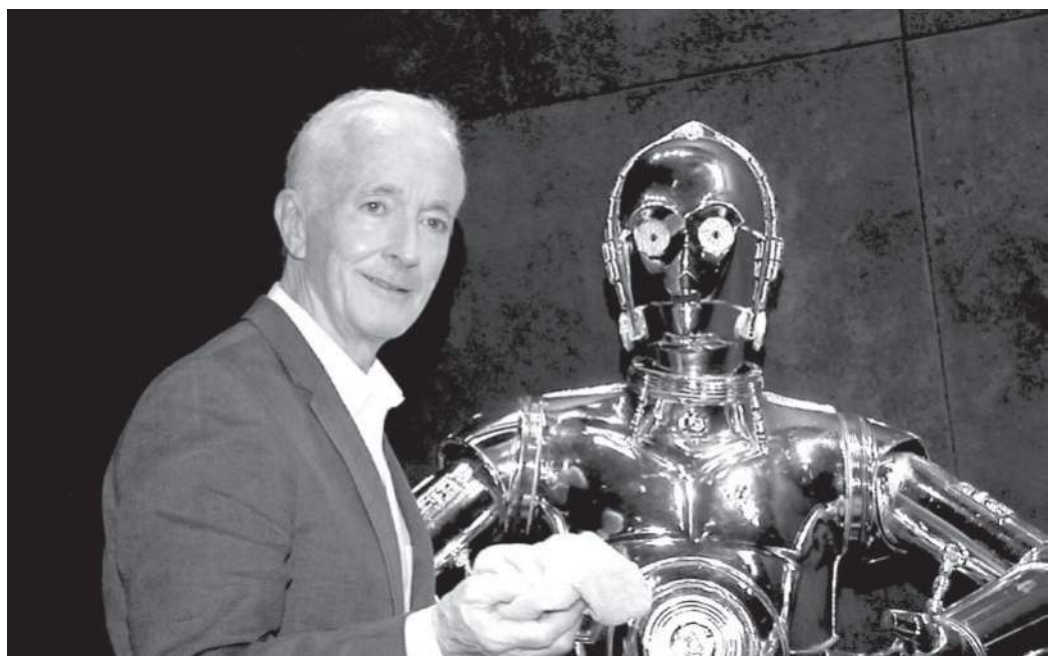
But the classically trained actor claims he almost passed up playing the golden droid.

"I didn't want to be in the first one. The job didn't appeal to me, quite frankly," Daniels said at a preview this week for a "Star Wars" costume exhibit in Manhattan.

But eventually, the 69-year old actor admits he developed a connection to the eloquent droid.

"Here I am, on the brink of "Episode VII," and who knows if C-3PO survives, there could be VIII and IX, as well," Daniels said.

Daniels addressed why the character was so well received, rumors surrounding the film and director J.J. Abrams in an interview with The Associated Press. Responses have been edited for brevity.


In this image taken from video, actor Anthony Daniels, who portrays C-3PO in the "Star Wars" films, appears with his robot counterpart at a preview for the "Star Wars and the Power of Costume" exhibition at Discovery Times Square Museum on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. AP

AP: What eventually convinced you to do "Star Wars"?

Daniels: This had to be the toughest project I came across. It called on skills I had, like mime and voice and that sort of stuff. But it took me six months as we were making the costume to really get a grip on it. It was the first day of filming out in the desert that 3P0 came together. ... George (Lucas) created a world that was completely believable and 3P0 landed in that world. ... One of the reasons that audiences believe in 3P0 is that Luke Skywalker totally treats him as normal.

AP: What about filming the desert scenes in Tunisia?

Daniels: Tunisia was not the most comfortable place because the sand is very fine and it gets everywhere, and I mean everywhere. Sometimes I was hot, sometimes I was really cold.

AP: Do you have a favorite "Star Wars" film?

Daniels: A lot of people consider "Empire Strikes Back," the second or number five as it became, to be the best movie for all sorts of reasons. ... I actually like the first one—I thought it had a kind of innocence, a completeness' that would stand on its own.

AP: How did you feel about J.J. Abrams taking over as director?

Daniels: J.J. Abrams saw the original "Star Wars" when he was 11, and I think from that moment he loved it, he loved it. And the courage of him taking over and doing 'Episode VII: The Force Awakens,' I cannot imagine what it is to wake up every morning and think, 'What am I doing? Oh that's what I'm doing today. I'm doing 'Star Wars.' The responsibility is huge. George (Lucas) created everything you see here, J.J. has sort of picked it up... (It) leads me to believe that I am going to enjoy this film so much.

AP: What's your take on the speculation flying around Luke Skywalker's absence from the trailers?

Daniels: I'm fascinated by people's desire to learn. ... And you know what? That curiosity shows how much they're affected and how much affection they have for it. They really want to know, except they don't really want to know. All will be revealed in time.

FSU to screen documentary about loud music killing case

TALAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus is hosting an advance screening of a documentary about the case of a Jacksonville teenager fatally shot by a white man after an argument over loud music.

The film "3 1/2 minutes" will be shown Sunday at the Florida State University Student Life Cinema.

Michael Dunn, 48, was convicted of first-degree murder for the November 2012 slaying of Jordan Davis. Authorities say Dunn fired 10 times at the SUV Davis was riding in after the two argued over the loud rap music coming from the 17-year-old's vehicle. Dunn was sentenced to life in prison.

The documentary, which was also shown at the Sundance Film Festival, will address how pending campus gun carrying legislation would affect safety

After Paris attacks, Hollywood tones down glitz

NEW YORK (AP)—In the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris, the entertainment world is toning down the glitz and scaling back on some of its most anticipated red carpet celebrations.

On Sunday, Lionsgate said the Monday premiere of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" in Los Angeles will be a slightly more subdued affair. Out of respect, the studio said, no interviews will be conducted at the premiere of the final chapter in the young-adult saga.

Such gestures proliferated over the weekend, as the entertainment industry reacted to the deadly attacks where the toll was highest at the Bataclan concert venue during a performance by the American rock group Eagles of Death Metal.

Instead of its regular cold opening with a sketch, "Saturday Night Live" opened with a tender monologue of solidarity, given by cast member Cecily Strong in French and English.

"Paris is the City of Light, and here in New York City, we know that light will never go out," Strong said.

Concerts in Paris and tours across Europe were canceled by U2, the Foo Fighters, Coldplay and others. Madonna went ahead with a concert in Stockholm, Sweden, but said during the show Saturday that she was apprehensive about it.

"In many ways I feel torn, because it's like, 'Why am I up here dancing and having fun when people are crying over the loss of their loved ones?'" Madonna told fans. "However, that is exactly what these people want to do. They want to shut us up. They want to silence us, and we won't let them. We will never let them."

CBS said Sunday it will replace an episode of the new series "Supergirl" that was supposed to deal with a bombing, and was shelving an episode of "NCIS: Los Angeles" about recruitment of young women by the Islamic State group.

At the Governors Awards on Saturday night in Los Angeles, many of the stars expressed their sympathies for the victims and their wariness at quickly returning to show business.

"Jada (wife Jada Pinkett Smith) and I were up all night," Will Smith said. "It's such a difficult, painful, awful, horrible situation and our hearts and our prayers go out to the families. It's one of those things where you feel helpless. What do you do? What's the solution? How do you help?"

Director Paul Feig said carrying on after the attacks was difficult.

"It does feel odd," Feig said. "I'm standing here in a tuxedo right now. But we honor those in Paris in solidarity with them. We love them. We love Paris. We are there all the time. We have friends there and when Paris bleeds we all bleed."



AP

In this Monday, Nov. 9, 2015 file photo, from left, Australian actor Liam Hemsworth, U.S actress Jennifer Lawrence, British actor Sam Claflin, U.S. actor Woody Harrelson and U.S. director Francis Lawrence, pose for photographers at the premiere of the film "The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 2," in Paris, just four days before terrorists killed scores and injured hundreds in attacks on the French capital Friday, Nov. 13.



Spike Lee calls for diversity as he accepts honorary Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Spike Lee told an audience of entertainment luminaries that it's easier for a black person to become President of the United States than head of a Hollywood studio or network.

Lee made the remarks Saturday as he accepted an Oscar statuette at the film academy's seventh annual Governors Awards dinner in Hollywood, where Gena Rowlands and Debbie Reynolds were also honorees.

"We need to have some serious discussions about diversity and get some flavor up in this," Lee said. "This industry is so behind sports it's ridiculous."

AP

John Turturro, left, and Spike Lee, honorary Oscar recipient, pose onstage at the Governors Awards at the Dolby Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, in Los Angeles.

The filmmaker praised Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Cheryl Boone Isaacs for "trying to do something that needs to be done." Earlier in the evening, Isaacs called on the industry powers in attendance to take action toward "recognizing and embracing a broad cross-section of talent." She also announced the academy's new five-year plan to improve diversity in its staff and governance.

Isaacs opened the Governors Awards ceremony with condolences for France in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

"All of us here stand in solidarity and support of France and the French people," she said. "Our connection with the film-loving French is especially deep."

Lee offered "peace and love to people in France" as he received his award. Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes and Samuel L. Jackson brought the filmmaker onstage for his Oscar.

"Spike Lee has put more African-Americans to work in this business than anyone else in this business," Washington said in his introduction.

Cate Blanchett and Laura Linney each paid tribute to Rowlands, calling her a trailblazer and inspiration. The 85-year-old actress, whose career spans six decades, received her Oscar from her son, Nick Cassavettes, who directed his mother in 2004's "The Notebook." He noted that the award was "the first Oscar in the family."

Looking lovingly at the golden trophy, Rowlands thanked the academy governors for "introducing me to this fine fellow."

"He's very handsome," she said. "You know, he's just so elegant... I think I'll take him home."

Reynolds received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep introduced the 83-year-old entertainer, who announced Friday that she would be unable to attend the ceremony.

Reynolds was recognized for her decades-long commitment to various charities, including the mental health organization she founded, the Thalians. Her granddaughter accepted Reynolds' statuette.

A live band played throughout the evening, and there were two musical interludes: Zooey Deschanel performed the Oscar-nominated song Reynolds sang in 1958's "Tammy and the Bachelor." Aloe Blacc sang "A Change is Gonna Come" as part of Lee's introduction.

Moving to the desert makes woman thirst for former life

DEAR ABBY: Last year my boyfriend and I moved across the country to Arizona so he could be closer to his friends and family. My entire family lives on the East Coast.

Recently it seems like our plan to marry and start a family keeps getting pushed further and further into the future. I'm 35; he's 47. Neither of us has been married or has kids.

I'm beginning to regret having uprooted my life for someone who is unilaterally changing the timing of what I thought we both wanted. How long should I wait before cutting my losses and moving closer to the people I care for and who miss me?

ALONE IN THE DESERT

DEAR ALONE: If you haven't already, it's time to have a conversation with your boyfriend about what your expectations were when you made the move to Arizona. If you want to have children, you will be getting a late start as it is.

Ask him why he wants to postpone your wedding plans beyond what you had agreed upon. He may have cold feet, his friends or relatives may have said they don't care for you -- anything is possible. But you deserve straight answers, and if they aren't satisfactory, I see no reason to devote more time to a relationship that isn't working out.

DEAR ABBY: Seven years ago my sister's 19-year-old son was killed in a car accident. After the wake she gave me a heart necklace with some of his ashes. We no longer speak and haven't for four years.

Well, did I get a shock today. I received an email from her asking for it back! She even had my stepmom repeat that message to me. I don't believe she has the right to ask for the necklace. Does she?

BLUE IN TENNESSEE

DEAR BLUE: Because you are no longer speaking, I can understand why your sister might want her son's ashes back. Be a lady; return the necklace to her via registered mail or have your stepmother give it to her. It's regrettable that your relationship with your sister has sunk to this level. Because this was no ordinary gift, understand that if you refuse to return it, your relationship with your sister will be permanently fractured.

DEAR ABBY: So many of your letters involve people having difficulty communicating with others. Here's a safe, honest, straightforward technique for targeting the behavior, sharing feelings and explaining the reasons for those feelings. It is called an "I-Statement" and has three parts: (1) "When you ..." (2) "I feel/felt ..." (3) "Because ..."

I-Statements can be used for the sharing of any and all feelings by kids, teens and adults. Feelings are valid because they are our honest emotions. In addition to giving positive strokes to one another, people can learn to better understand each other and have whole, complete and satisfying resolutions to problems. Try it!

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST (RETIRED) IN OHIO

DEAR PSYCHOLOGIST: I will! When I received your suggestion about improving communication, I felt grateful that you took the time to share it because it was not only generous of you but also may be helpful to many of my readers. Thank you for sending it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

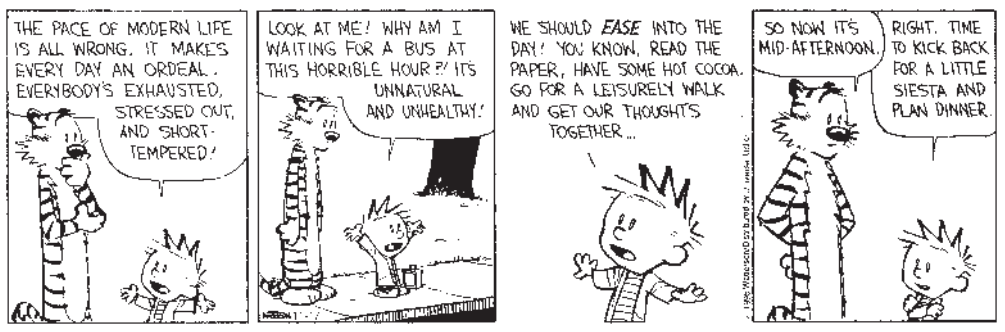


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



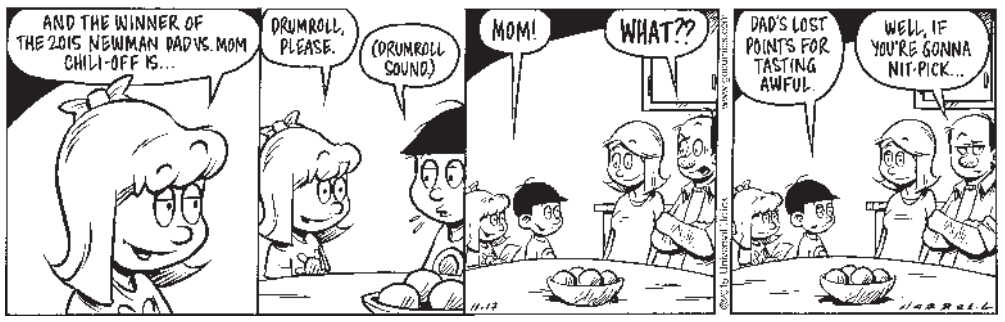
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By Jim Davis



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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

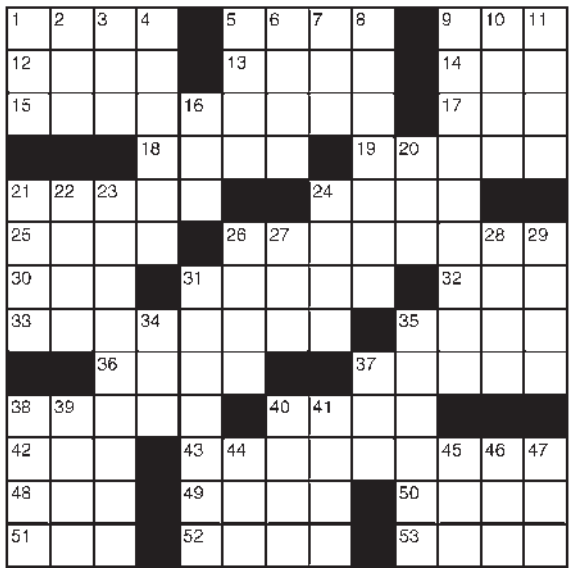
ACROSS
1 Movie piglet
5 "Dragnet" star Jack
9 NASCAR sponsor
12 Persia, now
13 "That's — know!"
14 Yes, in Tokyo
15 Commuter's coffee holder
17 "Shoo!"
18 Scraps
19 Cuckoo
21 President Bush, to friends
24 Mini-bell sound
25 Vexes
26 Laughed softly
30 Compass pt.
31 Erect
32 Pie — mode
33 Merry-go-round
35 "Not!"
36 Great balls of fire?
37 "That's plenty for me"
38 Stinky
40 All (Pref.)
42 Pub serving
43 Trophy type
48 CBS forensic show
49 Bumpless
50 Move like the Blob
51 Toe total
52 Hour-glass filler
53 Barbecue stick

DOWN
1 Iota
2 Bus sched. listing
3 Lea plea
4 Embassy figures
5 NBA great Frazier
6 Shady bunch?
7 — -Ray (disc format)
8 Tall "Sesame Street" character
9 Vodka vessel
10 Tight
11 Weep for
16 Historic time
20 "Fire" bug?
21 Oreo shape
22 Galactic bear
23 Oktoberfest freebie
24 Tot's toy
26 Say "&#%@!"
27 Rush along
28 "Night" author Wiesel
29 Kooky
31 — of joy (newborns)
34 Yes, to Yves
35 Pedro's pals
37 Lodge
38 Datum
39 Otherwise
40 It'll cook your goose
41 "— your manners!"
44 Lab eggs
45 "Blue Bloods" extra
46 Powerful gun
47 Teacher's fave

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	H	E	F	■	M	D	S	■	D	O	S	S
F	A	H	A	K	E	E	I	■	■	H	O	P
A	L	L	C	L	E	A	R	■	V	I	V	A
■	■	■	T	U	T	■	I	D	■	O	T	S
B	L	O	O	M	■	S	P	I	N	■	■	■
L	A	I	R	■	T	O	P	G	E	A	R	■
Y	D	S	■	A	I	D	E	S	■	L	I	L
■	Y	E	S	D	E	A	R	■	L	E	F	T
■	■	■	W	E	T	S	■	B	O	X	E	R
M	I	M	O	S	A	■	C	C	W	■	■	■
B	O	O	H	■	C	A	P	E	F	E	A	R
A	T	A	D	■	K	E	P	T	A	T	I	T
S	A	T	S	■	S	R	S	■	■	A	M	F

Yesterday's answer 11-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel McAdams, 37; Dylan Walsh, 52; Danny DeVito, 71; Martin Scorsese, 73.

Happy Birthday: You'll have options this year, but some will be more favorable than others. Don't let emotions interfere with your ability to make the best choice. You have to look at the long-term effects and evaluate the costs. Any opportunity to add to your skills or qualifications should be taken. Advancement will depend on how much you are willing to take on. Your numbers are 2, 13, 21, 24, 30, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An opportunity will come through someone you have worked with in the past. Consider negotiating a contract that will help you stabilize your financial situation. Call in favors and you'll get the help you require. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotional situations will hinder your productivity at work. Don't share your personal problems with your peers or the information may be used against you. What you do to improve your skills will take your mind off your worries and help you advance. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use persuasive tactics to get your way, but don't underestimate what someone else will ask for in return. Don't limit your chance to get ahead by promising something you can't possibly deliver. Work on yourself instead of trying to change others. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Hang on to your cash. If you want to impress someone, use your charm and intellect to command attention. Creative input and an openness to explore new possibilities will lead to a better living arrangement. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): It's what you do that counts. Talks will lead to emotional mishaps if you aren't careful. Live up to your promises and be responsible and you will avoid criticism. Spend time with the ones you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Good fortune will be yours if you utilize your insight and common sense to make positive changes at home and within business partnerships. How you communicate with others will make the difference. Opportunities will result if you network. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let someone else's changes slow you down or give you an excuse not to finish the projects that you start. What you do to improve who you are, how you look or what you have to offer will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your move quickly to avoid an emotional setback. Be creative and think outside the box and you will find an unconventional way to get others on board. An interesting change at home will motivate you to succeed. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful about what you promise to do. Someone will hold you to your word and judge you if you don't live up to your claims. Move forward quietly until you have everything in place, or you will risk interference. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Problems with friends, relatives or peers can be expected. Be prepared to work alone if you want to get things done. It will be in your best interest to be secretive about your ideas until you can get all the kinks ironed out. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't become confused by what someone says. Ask questions until you understand what's happening. The personal changes you make will help you regain confidence. Finishing overdue projects will ease stress. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A business trip will lead to valuable information and good connections. A partnership looks encouraging and will give you a fresh look at an old idea or plan you've been contemplating. Express your thoughts and people will listen. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, innovative and unique. You have good instincts.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6					7		
8		1	4		6			
	2	5			9			6
	9		3			4	5	
	4	6			7		2	
6			8			2	4	
			1		2	3		7
		3					1	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	1	6	5	4	9	3	7
9	5	7	2	3	8	1	4	6
4	3	6	1	9	7	8	5	2
2	4	8	3	7	9	5	6	1
3	1	5	8	4	6	2	7	9
6	7	9	5	2	1	4	8	3
1	6	3	9	8	5	7	2	4
7	8	2	4	1	3	6	9	5
5	9	4	7	6	2	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★ 11/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PEACHES Solution: 7 letters

S	G	G	E	N	I	R	A	T	C	E	N	E	T	A
P	E	N	N	L	O	V	E	L	L	G	P	U	R	N
R	I	N	I	I	B	R	E	C	H	I	N	A	O	G
I	S	C	O	Z	N	I	O	O	R	O	R	(J)	L	I
N	U	U	K	T	E	N	D	S	D	J	A	(A)	O	O
G	M	C	O	L	S	E	A	E	E	U	M	(M)	C	S
H	M	I	I	U	I	G	R	C	G	I	O	(S)	U	P
C	E	D	W	L	D	N	N	F	I	C	R	L	L	E
I	R	I	O	F	O	I	G	I	N	Y	A	P	T	R
R	S	C	N	T	R	B	C	I	L	D	Y	L	I	M
O	E	A	S	P	A	E	M	E	G	C	Z	A	V	S
V	T	U	E	K	N	A	S	Y	D	E	Z	N	A	N
A	R	R	I	I	T	E	M	H	S	E	U	T	R	I
L	I	N	W	I	E	A	T	I	U	R	F	A	S	K
F	G	A	V	D	E	S	S	E	R	T	E	E	W	S

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Acidic, Amygdalus, Angiosperms, Aroma, Baking, Canning, China, Clingstones, Color, Cultivars, Deciduous, Dessert, Donut, Edible, Fire Prince, Flavorich, Freezing, Fresh, Fruit, Fuzzy, Jams, Juicy, Lovell, Nectarine, Pickling, Plantae, Ripe, Rose, Ruston Red, Seed, Skin, Snow, Spring, Summerset, Sweet, Symbolic, Tree, Vitamin C, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Games

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DAY & NIGHT

Ace Hardware CNMI Inc.

is currently seeking for

(1) Inventory/Cost Accountant

Interested applicants may pick up an application at the second floor of the Joeten Susupe Shopping Center.

Ace Hardware CNMI Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

For Immediate Hire

Farmer
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Contact: 783.2771
Minimum wage with commission.
Local Hire Preferred

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 Accountant

- Must be college graduate
- Must be PeachTree literate
- Hardworking and honest
- At least 2 years experience

For interested applicants, please email your resume to sunleadersaipan@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OUTSIDE SALESPERSON

- Must be organized and good with computers. Salary plus commission.
- Must have driver's license and own vehicle. We will reimburse mileage expense.
- Prefer someone bilingual in either English/Tagalog, or English/Chinese
- Great benefits package after completion of probationary period.
- Selling construction materials in Saipan. We are headquartered in Guam.
- Monday through Friday, 8-5. Experience not necessary. Male or Female.

Email resume to earlm@doorstoreguam.com. or call 1-671-687-3149
Interviews to be held Wednesday or Thursday.

The door store

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UNITS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING.

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PINNACLE STAFFING, LLC

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(1) Groundkeeper

- Maintain outdoor areas, handle heavy equipment, rake and dispose of trash, and other related duties.
- High School Diploma Holder
- Must have two years experience

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235-6397

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Marketing Manager
Prepare and execute overall advertising and selling strategies of company particularly for the China Market; Expand high quality customer and realizing each operation index; Organize/prepare middle and long term marketing plan; Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual operations plan; Responsible for team management; Evaluate direct subordinate and supervise execution and improvement of performance plans.

Public Relations Manager
Prepare public relations strategies and tactics according to market demand; Timely adjust directions of each PR activities; Expand and maintain customer and media resources; Coordinate relationships between partners; Plan publicity and activities scheme and prepare implementation.

Senior Business Development Manager
Prepare action plans and participate in special projects; Prepare business development plans, business sales strategies, annual sales plans and profit index for China Market; Improve customer satisfaction through visits, timely intervention with customer objections and complaints; Establish and consolidate balanced customer relationship platform; Responsible for entire process of business negotiations and contracts; Coordinate with related departments for scheme preparations according to customer demands.

Administration Manager
Prepare work development plan; Develop budget scheme for company administrative department; Development administrative management policies and enforce implementation; Organize and coordinate general and annual meetings, staff activities, market activities and all other company meetings; Manage fixed assets procurement and management. Extensive administrative management experience required.

Administrative Assistant
Assist in the management of the daily administrative management of the company including but not limited to delivery arrangements, mail and fixed supply); Responsible for archives management; company documents, data and statistics management; Coordinate travel and meeting arrangements locally and internationally for company executives.

Customer Manager
Responsible for development and management of customers by maintaining favorable cooperation relationships with customers; Study and cater to customer demand and state; Prepare scheme of planning, preparation and international communication according to customer demand; Transfer customer demand and coordinate with each support department for progress, quality as well as control of project cost.

HR Officers
Coordinate all HR activities including, but not limited to, management of employees' time and attendance, recruitment, processing and orientations; Update employees of employment issues and trends and requirements by state and federal government; Responsible for employees' payroll; Responsible for processing of employees' documents as required for employment; Advice business executives and managers of international recruitment policies.

Project Assistant
Maintain channel information, collect and maintain customer data; Assist in organizing and implementing marking activities; Coordinate to transfer customer demand to each support department for progress, quality and control of project team; Translation of related documents from Chinese to English and vice versa; Assist executives in project meetings.

Manager of Entertainment Department
Responsible for performance and proposal of large-scale shows; Responsible for selection and negotiation of performers and venues; Responsible for implementation management of performances; Responsible for team construction and management of entertainment department.

Assistant President
Coordinate all work schedules and meetings for company President; Coordinate with administrative departments in Saipan, Beijing and HongKong in arranging reception, and executive meetings, as well as with customers in and out of Saipan; Assist President for translation in meetings and relevant documents from English to Chinese; Coordinate and assist in business development and other related work pertinent to the President's request and instructions.

Interested applicants may submit resume to
Skywalker Communications Group, LLC; P.O. Box 501856; Saipan, MP 96950
or email to mmssablan1@yahoo.com

WHATZIT Solution: Bob up and down

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

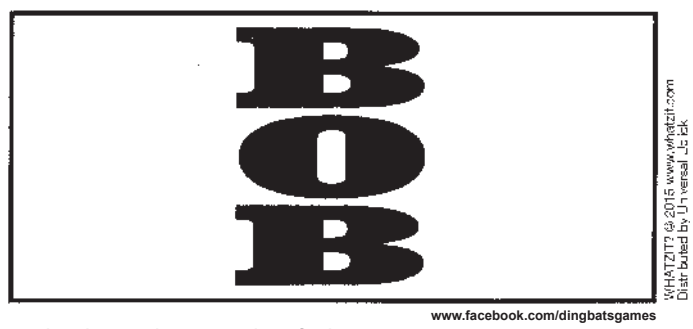
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Gostkowski's 54-yard FG keeps Patriots unbeaten, 27-26

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—There's an air of invincibility and inevitability about the New England Patriots.

Invincible because since January, they haven't lost. Inevitable because of the feeling they will find a way—something they did in their toughest test this season, edging the New York Giants 27-26 on Stephen Gostkowski's 54-yard field goal with 1 second remaining.

"You're one kick away from being Public Enemy No. 1," Gostkowski said. "You're always one kick away from trending on Twitter as the No. 1 loser in America.

"But it's fun being on a good team. It's kind of like being on a baseball team where everybody's got a hit, and you can't wait to get up there and get a hit, too."

The Giants, who seemed to have New England's number, were poised to knock off the Patriots (9-0) on Josh Brown's fourth field goal with 1:47 remaining. But you don't beat the Patriots with field goals.

After Brown made his franchise-record 27th straight, from 29 yards, Tom Brady drove the Patriots 44 yards, converting a fourth-and-10 on the series. He also got lucky when Giants rookie safety Landon Collins dropped an interception; Collins said he hit his head on the turf and lost the ball.

Gostkowski, the NFL's leading scorer the last three seasons, sent his winning kick soaring through the uprights.

New York (5-5) has given the Patriots fits under Tom Coughlin, including two Super Bowl wins, and nearly pulled off another victory. A 5-yard pass to Odell Beckham Jr. on New York's final drive was originally called a touchdown, then reversed by video review.

"I should have caught the ball," said Beckham, who admitted he didn't know the whole rule about completing the catch.

That possession was set up when Trumaine McBride intercepted Brady at the goal line, setting up an 86-yard, 15-play march to Brown's field goal.

That left room for Brady, who hit Danny Amendola three times for 32 yards on the winning series.

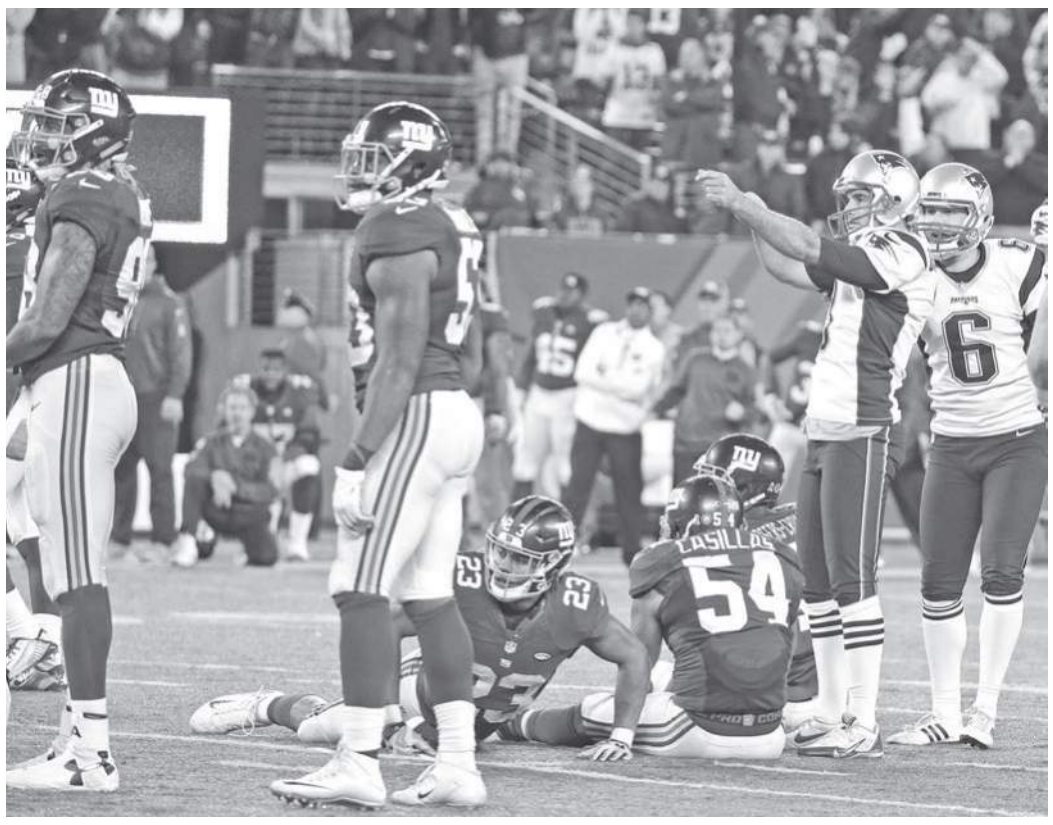
"Just finish the game," an exasperated Coughlin said, recognizing four of his team's defeats this year came because the Giants failed in the final moments.

"You don't win, they are all miserable. I don't look at it in terms of degrees. I look at it in terms of frustration that goes along with it because of what could have been. It's not that far away from being a win. Just finish the thing off."

Both Beckham and New England's Rob Gronkowski had the longest TD catches of their careers: Beckham for 87 yards and Gronkowski for 76.

The Patriots inexorably marched downfield with the opening kickoff on a 14-play, 80-yard drive. Backup tight end Scott Chandler capped it with a 1-yard reception, giving New England a point in an NFL-record 32 straight quarters. They extended it to 35 with Gostkowski's second-quarter 31-yard field goal; LeGarrette Blount's 1-yard TD run following Amendola's 82-yard punt runback in the third—the longest of Amendola's career; and the long pass to Gronkowski on which New York's Craig Dahl and Brandon Meriweather collided.

But they also were plagued by critical pass interference penalties, and lost top receiver Julian Edelman (foot) in the first half. Of course, they still had Brady, who threw for 334 yards, and Gostkowski.



AP

New England Patriots' Stephen Gostkowski (3) celebrates after kicking the game-winning field goal as New York Giants' Rashad Jennings (23) and Jonathan Casillas (54) react during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday Nov. 15, 2015, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Patriots won 27-26.

Lions 18, Packers 16

In Green Bay, Wis., Matthew Stafford threw for two touchdowns, and Detroit stopped a 24-game road losing streak against Green Bay when it held on for a victory despite a late blunder by Calvin Johnson.

Mason Crosby missed a 52-yard field goal as time expired after the Packers recovered an onside kick fumbled by Johnson with 31 seconds left.

Detroit (2-7) had stopped Green Bay on a 2-point conversion attempt after Aaron Rodgers hit Justin Perillo for an 11-yard touchdown pass on the previous drive.

Stafford threw for 242 yards for the league-worst Lions, an organization that had been reeling following the midseason firings of the team president and general manager.

The Packers (6-3) lost their third straight game, but this was a new low after their two previous defeats came on the road to Super Bowl contenders Denver and Carolina.

Chiefs 29, Broncos 13

In Denver, Kansas City prevented Peyton Manning from getting the one record he really wanted, trouncing Denver on the strength of five interceptions and five field goals.

Manning entered the day with 71,836 yards through the air, 2 shy of Brett Favre's record and tied with Favre with 186 victories.

He finished the day with just 35 yards on 5-of-20 passing, four interceptions, two sacks and an almost unheard-of zero passer rating before being benched late in the third quarter.

The only highlight for Manning was his milestone: a 4-yard pass to running back Ronnie Hillman. Even that didn't come until he'd thrown his first interception, gotten sacked and fumbled.

The Broncos (7-2) saw their nine-game AFC West winning streak come to an end with their first loss to the Chiefs (4-5) since Tim Tebow was their quarterback in 2011.

Cardinals 39, Seahawks 32

In Seattle, Carson Palmer threw for 363 yards and three touchdowns, Andre Ellington had a 48-yard touchdown run with 1:58 remaining and Arizona moved three games ahead in the NFC West with a wild victory over Seattle.

Palmer helped the Cardinals (7-2) build leads of 19-0 and 22-7 at halftime, only to watch Seattle (4-5) rally and take a 29-25 lead early in the fourth quarter on Bobby Wagner's 22-yard fumble return that left CenturyLink Field shaking.

Undaunted by losing the lead, Palmer led the Cardinals on an 83-yard touchdown drive, capped by a 14-yard strike to Jermaine Gresham with 8:41 remaining. The Cardinals held Seattle on its next possession and Ellington added the punctuation, sprinting down the sideline on a third-down run to cap Arizona's big night.

Panthers 27, Titans 10

In Nashville, Tenn., Cam Newton completed his first 11 passes—the longest streak of his career—and Carolina remained unbeaten.

The Panthers (9-0) extended their league-best winning streak to 13 games as Newton ran for a touchdown and passed for another score.

The Titans (2-7) suffered their 10th straight home loss in the first home game under interim coach Mike Mularkey.

Rookie quarterback Marcus Mariota and the Titans were held scoreless in the second half.

Jaguars 22, Ravens 20

In Baltimore, Jason Myers kicked a 53-yard field goal after Jacksonville got one final play on a facemask penalty with no time left, and the Jaguars ended their 13-game road losing streak.

Down 20-19 with no timeouts, the Jaguars got the ball at their 20 with 1:06 left. After moving to the Baltimore 49, Blake Bortles took the snap an instant before the clock expired and was quickly sacked by Elvis Dumervil.

But Dumervil grabbed the quarterback's facemask, giving the Jaguars one final play even though the clock read 0:00.

The victory enabled the Jaguars (3-6) to end a road skid that followed a win in Cleveland on Dec. 1, 2013.

Baltimore fell to 2-7.

Vikings 30, Raiders 14

In Oakland, Calif., Adrian Peterson ran for 203 yards and a touchdown in his record-tying sixth career 200-yard game, Cordarrelle Patterson returned a kick 93 yards for a score and Minnesota took over sole possession of first place in the NFC North by beating Oakland.

Teddy Bridgewater threw a touchdown pass, and the Vikings (7-2) held the Raiders' potent offense in check for their fifth straight win. Minnesota moved a game ahead of Green Bay in the division heading into next week's showdown at home with the Packers.

Derek Carr threw two touchdown passes for the Raiders, but also was intercepted twice. Oakland (4-5) lost its second straight game to fall further behind in the AFC playoff race.

Steelers 30, Browns 9

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw for 379 yards and three touchdowns.

Roethlisberger began the game on the bench to rest his sprained left foot but entered in the first quarter after Landry Jones went down with a left ankle injury. Roethlisberger completed 22 of 33 passes and was sacked once as Pittsburgh won its second straight.

Antonio Brown caught 10 passes for 139 yards and two scores as the Steelers (6-4) remained unbeaten at home against Cleveland (2-8) since 2003.

Johnny Manziel passed for a career-high 372 yards with a touchdown and an interception but was also sacked six times. The Browns, ran for just 15 yards and were penalized 11 times for 159 yards.

Dolphins 20, Eagles 19

In Philadelphia, Chris McCain knocked Sam Bradford out and Reshad Jones spoiled Mark Sanchez's comeback bid.

Ryan Tannehill threw a go-ahead 4-yard touchdown pass to Jarvis Landry and the defense held on for Miami.

Bradford injured his left shoulder and sustained a concussion on a hard hit by McCain in the third quarter and didn't return, though X-rays were negative.

Sanchez drove the Eagles to the Dolphins 8 late in the fourth quarter, but Jones intercepted his pass in the end zone. Miami's defense held again in the final minute.

The Dolphins (4-5) snapped a two-game losing streak. The Eagles fell to 4-5.

Buccaneers 10, Cowboys 6

In Tampa, Fla., Jameis Winston scored on a 1-yard quarterback keeper with 54 seconds remaining, extending Dallas' longest losing streak since 1989 to seven games.

The No. 1 draft pick shrugged off two interceptions—the first he'd thrown in a month—and benefited from a defensive holding call that wiped out his goal-line fumble on the play before the rookie faked a handoff to Doug Martin and circled around right end all alone.

The Cowboys (2-7) reached the Tampa Bay 44 following the ensuing kickoff, but Matt Cassel's throw to the end zone intended for Dez Bryant was intercepted by Bradley McDougald.

The Bucs improved to 4-5.

Bears 37, Rams 13

In St. Louis, Zach Miller caught two touchdown passes, including an 87-yard score that was Chicago's longest play since 2010, and rookie Jeremy Langford also had two TDs.

The Bears (4-5) improved to 3-1 on the road after their top offensive showing. They brought thousands of fans to the Edward Jones Dome, which had a season-best 58,663 tickets distributed.

Langford was untouched on an 83-yard TD on a screen and also had a 6-yard scoring run. The running back, filling in for the injured Matt Forte, had seven catches for 109 yards and 73 yards on 20 carries.

The Rams fell to 4-5.

Redskins 47, Saints 14

In Landover, Md., Kirk Cousins threw for a career-high four touchdowns—each one longer than any scoring pass he'd completed all season—to lead Washington.

Cousins went 20 for 25 for 324 yards, zero interceptions and a perfect passer rating of 158.3, connecting for TDs of 78 yards to Matt Jones, 16 and 8 yards to Jordan Reed, and 11 yards to Jamison Crowder.

Cousins didn't have a touchdown toss of more than 7 yards until he got to go up against the Saints' porous and poor-tackling defense.

The 33-point margin of victory for the Redskins (4-5) was the team's largest since beating San Francisco by 35, 52-17, in October 2005.

The Saints (4-6) lost their second game in a row.

Kobe, Clarkson lead Lakers past Pistons for 2nd win

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant's entire 37-year-old body is aching for an ice bath and a day off just 10 games into his 20th NBA season.

Bryant still put in the extra effort necessary to make sure those 10 games weren't the worst start to a season in Lakers history.

Bryant had 17 points, eight rebounds and nine assists to help Los Angeles beat the Detroit Pistons 97-85 Sunday night for its second win of the year.

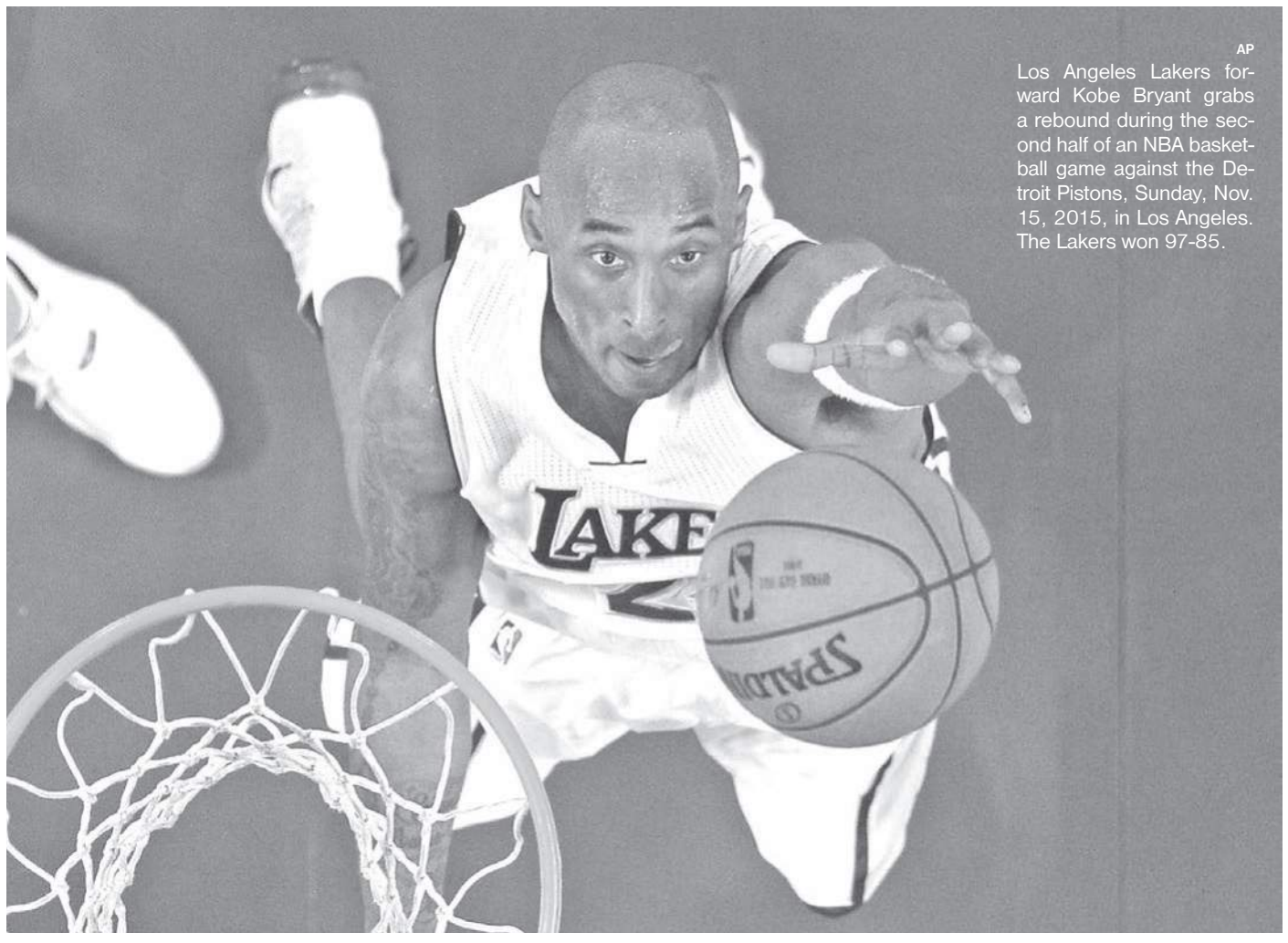
Andre Drummond had 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons, who finished a six-game West Coast trip with their fourth consecutive loss.

Bryant went 6 for 19 from the field during a season-high 37 minutes, but finished with a season-high in assists. He stayed in until the Lakers' win was assured, even though it meant he won't play in the Lakers' game in Phoenix on Monday to rest.

"We've got to get this win here at home," Bryant said. "(But) right now, I'm barely standing up. My back and my legs, it's killing me. I go home, and I'm looking forward to that ice bath and the stretch, and a full day of recovery tomorrow. ... I'm not looking forward to walking to the car. Seriously."

Jordan Clarkson scored 17 points and Los Angeles snapped a four-game skid in its return from a long East Coast trip. The Lakers are only 2-8, but that's one game better than last season's Lakers, whose 1-9 start led to the worst record in the franchise's history.

"We needed this one," Clarkson said. "We really dug down defensively."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant grabs a rebound during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 97-85.

Jazz 97, Hawks 96

In Atlanta, Derrick Favors scored 23 points, Rodney Hood added 20 points and the Utah Jazz beat the Atlanta Hawks 97-96 on Sunday night to end a three-game skid.

Paul Millsap had a season-high 28 points for the Hawks but failed to hit the rim on a 3-point attempt in the final minute and missed a 12-footer at the buzzer.

Atlanta has lost three of four. Point guard Jeff Teague sat out with a sore ankle, leaving the Hawks without their second-leading scorer. Dennis Schroder finished with 11 points, nine assists and no turnovers in his absence.

Utah took a seven-point lead on Alec Burks' runner with 2:20 remaining.

Al Horford and Kent Bazemore each had 16 points for the Hawks. Horford's 3 with 33 seconds left made it 97-96. Favors missed a jumper on the next possession but grabbed the rebound from Millsap's miss to seal it.

Celtics 100, Thunder 85

In Oklahoma City, Marcus Smart scored a career-high 26 points to help Boston beat Oklahoma City.

Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points, Avery Bradley had 14 and Jared Sullinger added eight points and 15 rebounds to help the Celtics win their third in four games. Boston shot 48 percent and outrebounded the Thunder 47-34.

Smart, who played college ball at nearby Oklahoma State, also guarded Russell Westbrook effectively. He was part of a collective effort that held the reigning scoring champion to 5-for-20 shooting. Westbrook still scored 27 points and carried a larger load with Kevin Durant out with a hamstring injury.

Serge Ibaka scored 16 points, and the Thunder had a season-low point total and their worst shooting performance.

Westbrook had posted triple-doubles in his previous two games but finished this one with just five assists and four rebounds.

Oklahoma City's three-game win streak was snapped.

Kings 107, Raptors 101

In Sacramento, Calif., DeMarcus Cousins scored 10 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Sacramento to its third straight win.

Rudy Gay had 26 points and Omri Casspi added 14 for Sacramento, which won despite committing 20 turnovers that led to 20 points. Rajon Rondo had seven points, 14 assists and seven rebounds, but also had seven turnovers.

DeMar ReRozan scored 24 points, and Kyle Lowry made six 3-pointers while adding 22 points and seven assists for the Raptors. DeMarre Carroll made four 3s and had 17 points and reserve Kyle Cory Joseph also scored 17.

The Kings outscored the Raptors 14-2 over the final 3:22 — including the final 11 points of the game.

Hornets 106, Trail Blazers 94

In Charlotte, N.C., Nicolas Batum scored 33 points, Al Jefferson added 29 and Charlotte held off a fourth-quarter rally to beat Portland.

Kemba Walker added 14 points and Jeremy Lamb had 13 for the Hornets, who led 71-45 at halftime and by as many as 29 points midway through the third quarter.

But the Trail Blazers began cutting into Charlotte's lead in the fourth quarter, pulling within 98-92 on Ed Davis' layup with 2:58 remaining.

Charlotte responded with an 8-0 run, getting two free throws each by Walker and Batum and two baskets by Jefferson to push the lead back to double digits in winning its third straight home game.

Damian Lilliard had 23 points, Allen Crabbe 17 and CJ McCollum 16 for Portland, which lost its fifth straight.

Knicks 95, Pelicans 87

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and 13 rebounds to help New York beat New Orleans.

Langston Galloway scored 15 points and fellow reserve Kevin Seraphin had 12 for New York, which was coming off consecutive losses to Charlotte and Cleveland. Rookie Kristaps Porzingis had 10 points on 4-of-15 shooting.

Anthony Davis had 36 points and 11 rebounds for New Orleans, and Ryan Anderson scored 16 points.

Steph Curry somehow improves on MVP and championship season

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry hardly keeps track of how many 3-pointers he's putting up on a given night. His mindset is: See a chance and let it fly.

So, how about if he's on a record pace for 3s by season's end?

"I always believe 3 is better than 2," Curry said with a smile after a recent game. "If I can knock 'em down, I'm sure that will help our team kind of open up games and it's kind of deflating for a defense. I know it is for us when a guy gets hot on the other side."

The reigning NBA MVP has had a hot hand so far this season while playing for the league's most dominant team. The defending champions appear to be even better than they were during their 67-win title run.

Curry is determined to show the rest of the league he's a far more polished player, capable of spectacular performances and leading the new-and-improved Warriors during another special season.

"I'm always confident. I'm not really surprised when I do something crazy," Curry said. "That's how I practice is the way I play out there, and trying to let that show."

Curry's sensational start has his name mentioned in the same breath as Michael Jordan, and interim Warriors coach Luke Walton projects he'll be the best shooter of all time. That is, if he isn't already there.

"I think he's setting the new standard as a shooter in this league," Walton said.

Doc Rivers of the rival Clippers said he can't remember another player with the combination of Curry's shooting range and slick ball handling. The only comparison Rivers can make is to a star from his youth: Pistol Pete Maravich.

"I can't think of anyone else that has done it on that level," Rivers said. "There are guys that have been near that level, but no one else is on that level."

Curry rarely slowed down during the short offseason, using the summer to improve his game and welcome a new daughter to join celebrity sister, Riley.

The baby-faced point guard just shrugged and chuckled when the subject of all his 3-point attempts came up following last Friday's win against Denver.

"I shot 16," Curry said. "I'm making a few more, so that helps. I'm getting decent looks. Shoot 50 percent or more I'm sure it doesn't matter how many I take. I'm not really searching for them, which is good, just the flow of the offense, rhythm, knocking them down and keeping the offense going."

The 27-year-old Curry has hit 52 of 110 from long range through 10 games in his seventh NBA season, putting him on pace for 426. That would shatter his record set last season of 286 on 646 attempts.

"If I beat what I did last year, then we're doing something," Curry said.

Curry causes game-planning fits for every opposing coach.

"I was hoping he'd be on a championship celebration all summer, and he's been working on his game," Rivers said. "That's too bad for all of us."

Grizzlies coach David Joerger joked about using three defenders on Curry before a 50-point loss at Golden State earlier this month.

Rivers has already noticed Curry's offseason efforts, such as making the adjustment to defenses constantly switching on him.

"We've seen great shooters in the league. We've seen great ball handlers in the league. We haven't seen great shooters that are ball handlers," Rivers said. "He's both and I don't think we've seen a combination of what he can do. At least I haven't."

Curry is more popular than ever, all around the country and around the world.

His merchandise is the top NBA seller for online retailer Fanatics.com, with a 453 percent increase for his gear this season from the start of last season while his jersey sales are up 581 percent. Golden State gear is also the top seller for NBA apparel.

The Warriors won 129-116 at Minnesota on Thursday night for the best start in franchise history, becoming the fourth team to begin a season at least 10-0 immediately after capturing a championship.

Grizzlies 114, Timberwolves 106

In Minneapolis, Jeff Green scored a season-high 21 points, Mike Conley matched his season-high with 20 points to go with six assists and the Memphis held on to beat Minnesota.

Six players scored in double figures for Memphis, which won its second straight after losing four in a row. Marc Gasol had 14 points and seven rebounds for the Grizzlies, who shot a season-high 56.3 percent from the field.

Zach Lavine scored 25 points to lead Minnesota, which is 0-5 at home this season. Andrew Wiggins added 21 points for the Timberwolves, who dropped their fourth straight game overall.

Conley's 3-pointer with about 5 minutes left to play snapped an 89-all tie. Conley had been held to 15 total points in the previous two games, but he scored six in the fourth quarter to allow Memphis to finally pull away. Green added 15 points in the second half on 7-of-12 shooting.

Boston gets closer Kimbrel from Padres for 4 prospects

BOSTON (AP)—New Boston Red Sox boss Dave Dombrowski on Friday night made his first big move to rebuild the franchise after its third last-place finish in four years, acquiring four-time All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel from the San Diego Padres for four prospects.

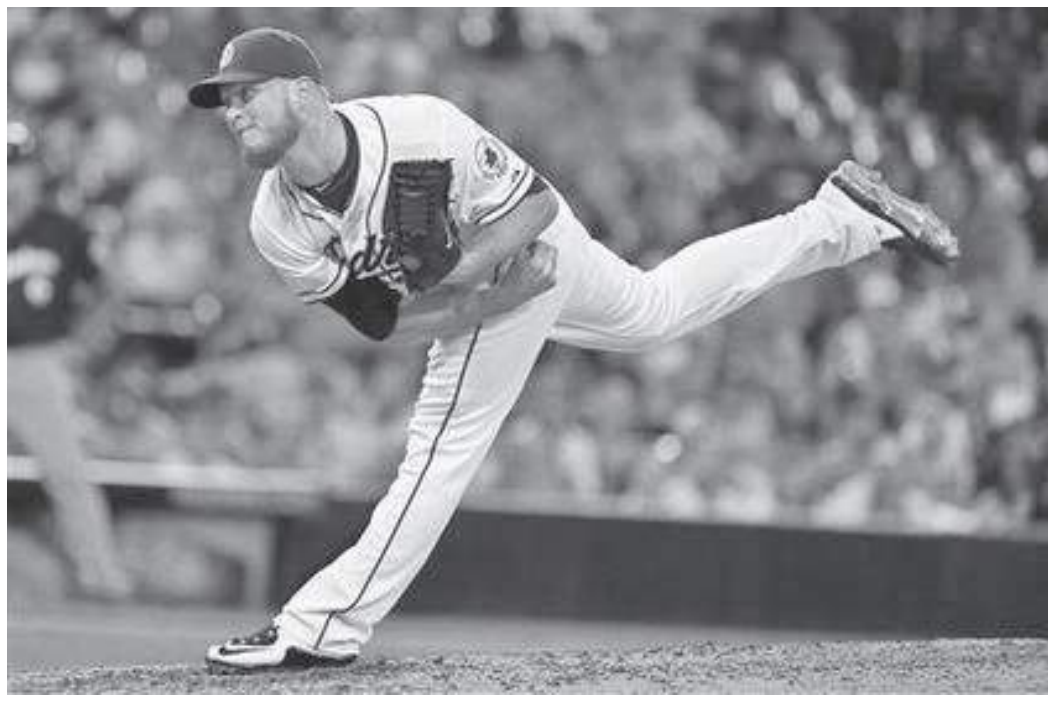
Kimbrel, who saved 39 games for the Padres this season, spent the first five years of his career with the Atlanta Braves before they traded him to San Diego on the eve of the 2015 regular season. The Red Sox assumed $25 million remaining on Kimbrel's contract but have him under control for up to three more seasons.

"Moving to the American League, I'm excited," Kimbrel said during a conference call. "It's a league that has the big bats. And being a pitcher, you want a challenge of facing the big bats."

The Padres receive outfielder Manuel Margot, infielders Javier Guerra and Carlos Asuaje, and left-hander Logan Allen. Only Asuaje and Margot made it as high as Double-A last season.

"We didn't give anything up at the major league level to affect our club this year," Dombrowski said. "It's good talent. Some of it's a while away."

Kimbrel, 27, went 4-2 with a 2.58 ERA in 61 appearances last season, 43 of them save opportunities, and he struck out 87 in 59 1-3 innings. Since the start of his first full season in 2011, he leads major league relievers with 224 saves and ranks second among them with a 1.70 ERA and 523 strikeouts.



AP
In this Oct. 1, 2015, file photo, San Diego Padres closer Craig Kimbrel follows through with a pitch against the Milwaukee Brewers in the ninth inning of a baseball game in San Diego.

He recorded his 200th save in his 318th game, the fastest in major league-history.

"There are various names out there, but (he's) one of the best in baseball," Dombrowski said. "We look for him to be our guy back there for years to come."

San Diego finished fourth in the NL West last season despite a roster makeover by general manager A.J. Preller. He said trading Kimbrel for young - and inexpensive - players gives him the payroll flexibility that could allow the Padres to get back into the free agent market.

It also will give them depth.

"I think when you're trading a player of Craig's caliber I think we knew we needed quality and quantity. So I want to say all four guys are important to us," Preller said. "To really get to a championship level, you've got to have depth, you've got to have numbers and you've got to be strong up the middle."

With the acquisition of Kimbrel, Boston will move Koji Uehara into the eighth-inning role. Junichi Tazawa would handle the seventh.

Uehara emerged as the closer in Boston's 2013 World Series championship run. But he started and ended last season on the disabled list, finishing his year on Aug. 7 with a broken right wrist.

Dombrowski said manager John Farrell spoke to Uehara and the pitcher was willing to do whatever the ballclub wanted.

"John Farrell thought he would be fine, knowing the type of individual he is," Dombrowski said. "He said he just wanted to pitch in the World Series again."

Asuaje, 24, spent 2015 with Double-A Portland, playing primarily second base. He has batted .278 with a .364 on-base percentage and a .440 slugging percentage in 312 career minor-league games.

Seattle acquires Benoit from Padres for 2 minor leaguers

SEATTLE (AP)—Mariners general manager Jerry Dipoto is wasting little time in addressing one of his team's most glaring needs.

Seattle added to its bullpen Thursday, acquiring 38-year-old right-hander Joaquin Benoit from the San Diego Padres for two minor league prospects - right-handed pitcher Enyel De Los Santos and infielder Nelson Ward.

Dipoto saw Benoit pitch in September. He raved about his changeup and was impressed with his ability to still throw in the mid-90s by season's end.

"A three-pitch, back-end guy with three out pitches at any given moment in time and that changeup just gives him a wipeout pitch to both sides," the new Seattle GM said. "He'll throw it to the right and the left. He's been both durable and ... a good fit for our ballpark."

Benoit was 6-5 with a 2.34 ERA in 67 appearances last season for San Diego. Opponents hit just .159 against Benoit. He was especially tough on right-handed hitters, with a .144 average against him. It was the lowest of any NL pitcher who faced at least 100 batters.

Benoit has played 14 seasons in the majors with Texas, Tampa Bay, Detroit and San Diego. He fits an immediate need after Seattle's bullpen regressed significantly in 2015. After being the best bullpen in baseball in 2014, Mariners relievers ranked 25th with a 4.15 ERA and had 24 blown saves.

Dipoto didn't want to define a role for Benoit this soon into the offseason, but he sees him as a core piece at the back of the bullpen with Tom Wilhelmsen, Charlie Furbush and Carson Smith. The Mariners also added left-handed reliever C.J. Riefenhauser as part of a six-player trade with Tampa Bay last week.

"There is still an awful lot of offseason left," Dipoto said. "I don't anticipate this will be the last addition we make in our bullpen."

TEEN

From Page 28

of Football 2016, which is expected to take place mid next year with the venue to be determined later.

Though next year's event is another festival with no team to be crowned champion, Angeles believes games in off-island contests like this are what the young Commonwealth players need to keep up with the rest of the region.

"We should not rely on the CNMI level of football only. The real competition is outside the CNMI and this has been proven when there is an international tournament or festival. Players that have experienced playing internationally should adapt with the level of other countries and from there must improve and make it as their benchmark and not go back to the old and bad NMI football habits," said Angeles, adding that playing against Guam, Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, and North Korea in the EAFF festival last week has given the Teen Ayuyus and their coaching staff valuable lessons which they must consider as challenges to play better the next time they see action in another off-island competition.

"The CNMI must be exposed to high level of football by playing more games with other countries and watching more professional matches in television or the Internet. This is the only way our players would improve rapidly—individually and as a team," Angeles said.

The Teen Ayuyus dropped all their games in Guam, losing first to Chinese-Taipei, 0-7 last Nov. 8, before falling Hong Kong, 0-8, and Guam, 0-5, in back-to-back games on one day (Nov. 9). The CNMI players had their final game against North Koreans last Nov. 10 and the latter cruised to a 13-0 victory.

SLLBI

From Page 28

(player agent), and John Manibusan (safety officer) are the other SLLBI board members.

Former SLLBI vice president Annie Flores, another long-serving board member, begged off to be elected to the board this year as she wants to focus more on her family.

"Auntie Annie has been like a mother to the Saipan Little League. She decided to take some time off and take care of some personal matters but she said that we could always talk to her and ask for advice. She's still willing to assist us," added Murig.

He said that the SLLBI board aims to continue to guide Saipan's young baseball players in the hopes of again reaching the World Series.

"We have a lot of good baseball players. That's why a lot of people were surprised that a small island like Saipan could reach the World Series. Our boys who have reached the World Series also become ambassadors, because of them other people have learned about Saipan."

He said that he is hoping that all parents of the kids that will be playing this season would also do their share in helping the SLLBI board.

"We're looking forward for another successful year despite what we have experienced. The board only asks the parents that when the day comes that we need their help that they should do their share."

ATHLETES

From Page 28

who has represented the CNMI in PGC meetings and even served as the head of delegation in several Games.

"Of course we can't beat their athletes in swimming, basketball, or track and field. Even in other events and sports where they compete in the world championships level," added the longtime NMSA chief.

White said the Pacific Games would benefit in the long run on the PGC's move of finally opening their doors to Australia and New Zealand.

"In the long run it is a better idea since it would give us better competition. In a good sense, their participation would create pathways for Pacific Island nations to compete in larger events like the World Championships," he added.

"Australia and New Zealand might be stronger in many sports but that's what is good about it. It raises the level of competition. Hopefully, just like the other countries, the list of sports where they will be competing in would someday increase."

White said that he sees no disadvantage on the PGC's move since both countries are not members of the council. "It would also produce good results. I don't see any disadvantage since they are not part of the entire PGC structure but they might become in the near future. It all depends on the council."

White said the setup is similar to the Pan American Games' structure. "It is similar to what happens here in Oceania. The U.S. is not sending their NBA players for basketball in the PanAm Games."

The PGC, in an earlier report by Radio New Zealand, last year approved Australia and New Zealand's participation to the Port Moresby Games based on a revised proposal by council members "in a first step towards an expanded Continental Games."

Australia and New Zealand's inclusion to the Games, the PGC added, would raise the level of competition in the Pacific Games.

The council is in the process of assessing Australia and New Zealand's participation and would be making a report to give out to Pacific Games member nations.

Australia finished sixth overall in the July 4 to 18 Pacific Games winning a total of 47 medals—17 gold, 19 silver, and 11 bronze. New Zealand was 17th with a 1-9-10 gold-silver-bronze medal haul.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	7	4	.636	—
Boston	5	4	.556	1
New York	5	6	.455	2
Brooklyn	1	9	.100	5½
Philadelphia	0	10	.000	6½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	8	4	.667	—
Miami	6	3	.667	½
Washington	4	4	.500	2
Charlotte	5	5	.500	2
Orlando	5	6	.455	2½

Central Division

Cleveland	8	2	.800	—
Chicago	6	3	.667	1½
Indiana	6	4	.600	2
Milwaukee	5	5	.500	3
Detroit	5	5	.500	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	7	2	.778	—
Dallas	6	4	.600	1½
Memphis	5	6	.455	3
Houston	4	6	.400	3½
New Orleans	1	9	.100	6½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	6	4	.600	—
Utah	5	5	.500	1
Denver	5	5	.500	1
Minnesota	4	6	.400	2
Portland	4	7	.364	2½

Pacific Division

Golden State	11	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	4½
Phoenix	5	4	.556	5
Sacramento	4	7	.364	7
L.A. Lakers	2	8	.200	8½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	0	0	1.000	303	169
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556	231	207
N.Y. Jets	5	4	0	.556	217	184
Miami	4	5	0	.444	191	225

South

Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	200	227
Houston	3	5	0	.375	174	205
Jacksonville	3	6	0	.333	192	255
Tennessee	2	7	0	.222	169	214

North

Cincinnati	8	0	0	1.000	229	142
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	236	191
Baltimore	2	7	0	.222	210	236
Cleveland	2	8	0	.200	186	277

West

Denver	7	2	0	.778	205	168
Kansas City	4	5	0	.444	224	195
Oakland	4	5	0	.444	227	241
San Diego	2	7	0	.222	210	249

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	5	5	0	.500	273	253
Washington	4	5	0	.444	205	209
Philadelphia	4	5	0	.444	212	184
Dallas	2	7	0	.222	166	214

South

Carolina	9	0	0	1.000	255	175
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	229	190
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	191	237
New Orleans	4	6	0	.400	255	315

North

Minnesota	7	2	0	.778	198	154
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	219	185
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	199	234
Detroit	2	7	0	.222	167	261

West

Arizona	7	2	0	.778	302	185
St. Louis	4	5	0	.444	166	183
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	199	179
San Francisco	3	6	0	.333	126	223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Expect DeCourtney, Aleksenko duel in U9

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Expect youngsters Robert DeCourtney and Isaiah Aleksenko to duke it out for the boys U9 title when the finals of the All Schools Cross Country takes place on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the CPA Airport Field.

DeCourtney and Aleksenko have alternated in winning their division in the four legs of the annual Northern Marianas Athletics-organized event. They both qualified in the finals.

DeCourtney ruled the last of the four-leg race to duplicate his feat on Oct. 31. He clocked 6:46 last Saturday, which was seven seconds slower of his time in the second leg.

The Whispering Palms School bet also finished 16 seconds behind Aleksenko's winning time of 6:30 in the third leg last Nov. 7.

Aleksenko won the opening leg of the race last Oct. 24, completing the 1-mile (1.6 kilometers) run around the field at a blistering pace of 6:22.

The Saipan Community School fourth grader's time in the first leg was the fastest in the elementary division's U9 category.

Mike Hou of Agape Christian School settled for second in last Saturday's final leg with a time of 6:59, while Hopwood Middle School's Raven Francisco came in third completing the course in 7:09.

Another worth watching is the girls U11 division with WSR's Coume Kaga and Soleil Lamar of Grace Christian Academy the top contenders for the top prize.

Lamar finally shed her runner-up tag after topping the final leg submitting a time of 7:21. She finished second twice to Kaga in the first and second legs.

WPS' Ashley DeCourtney, who was also a runner-up to Kaga in the third leg, this time placed second to Lamar in the final leg with a time of 7:42, while Elizabeth Xu Jzamei of ACS came in third at 7:45.

Kaga topped the first three legs with times of 6:43, 6:42, and 6:44 but chose to skip last Saturday's possibly in preparation for the finals on Nov. 21.

Daniel Cho of SCS, who previously finished third and fifth each in the second and third legs, ruled the boys U11 age group with 7:45. His best time was 7:32 on Nov. 7.

Ricky Santos of WSR and Saniel Kang of SCS came in second and third to Cho with times of 8:32 and 8:35, respectively.

Jenny Zang of SCS ruled the U9 girls after submitting a time of 10:17, while William S. Reyes Elementary School's Jasmine Saluta came in at second with 10:47.

Seo Young Baek, Zang's schoolmate at SCS, placed third crossing the finish line in 11:35.

Kengo Sato of GCA bested SCS' Alfred Baek by one second after clocking 9:21 against the 9:22 of the latter in the boys' U7 division. Jose Peter Sablan, another SCS bet, finished third with 10:48.

Yujie Zhang of SCS also won by a hairline after a 10:20 time against the 10:21 of Garapan Elementary School's Sarapina Terry. Abby Kim, also of SCS, was third with



JON PEREZ
Robert DeCourtney gears up for the finals of the All Schools Cross Country race after topping the last leg last Saturday at the Airport Field.

Ferrera gains second semis berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ferrera Builders marched into the semifinals of the U18 division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after beating the Sonics, 67-59, last Sunday at the San Antonio court.

Ferrera joined outright qualifier GMI Market in the Final Four, while the Sonics have to beat the loser between the Judith's Warriors-KB Market playoff tiff to make the cut. GMI Market took the first and outright semis berth after sweeping the round-robin regular season, while Judith's Warriors and KB Market fought for the third Final Four seat last Sunday and results of the match were unavailable at press time.

The battle for the second semis ticket was decided in the fourth quarter with the Sonics folding up due to its numerous errors and wayward shots.

Down by only a deuce, 42-44, just two minutes into the final canto, the Sonics suddenly saw themselves behind by twin digits, 46-56, as Ferrera turned the former's miscues and off the target shots into points in the next five minutes of play.

Four different Ferrera players teamed up in the short 12-4 rally with center Jun Javier hitting two point-blanked shots, Chico Bondoc nailing an undergoal stab, and his older brother Franco converting two free throws. Jun Castro completed



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ferrera Builders' Jun Castro draws contact against two Sonics defenders during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the U18 division of the San Antonio caging last Sunday at the San Antonio court.

the rally with a pair of charities and earlier he made a difficult shot as he chased the ball down the baseline and saved it before pulling up for a fadeaway jumper that hit nothing but the net and wowed the crowd.

Ferrera was never threatened from thereon, as the Sonics continued to play erratic basketball, while Chico put the finishing touches in their playoff win, knocking in 6 more points and collaring a couple of offensive rebounds.

Chico ended up tallying 20 points to back up the 22 of Castro. Bryan De Guzman was the lone double figure scorer for Sonics with his 10 markers and he and the rest of his teammates received a dressing down from their coaching staff for collapsing in the payoff canto.

Islander 71, Ask Y U B 61

The Islander spoiled Ask Y U B's bid for the top spot in the East Group of the open division after posting a 10-point win.

Ask Y U B is done for the regular season, finishing the round-robin pool play with a 5-2 record for a tie for second place with the Sonics and behind solo leader MJD Enterprise (5-1). The Islander is still in third place with its 4-2 mark, while KB Market (2-4), Maplas (1-3), Triple J Motors (1-4), and 5-Star (0-5) complete the field.

All eight teams will advance to the playoffs with the Top 4 squads facing the lower-ranked teams in the next round of matches.

Kelvin Fitial and Prince Factor teamed up in giving the Islander its fourth win as they combined for more than half of the team's total output with the burly forward firing 24 points and the former Marianas High School standout adding 22. Dixon Kwon also provided some help to the Islander's cause, chipping in 13.

U18 Division

Ferrera 67 – Castro 22, C. Bondoc 20, Javier 8, Leyco 8, F. Bondoc 7, Tabora 2.

Sonics 59 – De Guzman 10, Esmundo 9, Borromeo 8, Diyco 8, Bautista 8, Salalila 6, Muna 4, Ignobay 3, Fidelino 2, Dionisio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-14, 27-27, 44-41, 67-59.

Open Division

Islander 71 – Fitial 24, Factor 22, Kwon 13, Lauron 4, Tenorio 2, Lee 2, Babauta 2, Malonzo 2.

Ask Y U B 60 – Cruz 19, Rabauliman 10, Ong 9, Sablan 9, Quan 5, Hammond 4, Brennan 3, Camacho 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 32-31, 51-46, 71-60.

Ladybirds tops Kickers in Dove league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ladybirds won the lone game played in the 2015 Dove Women's Football Fall League last Sunday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field as they dominated the Kickers, 7-2.

Jeralyn Castillo and Sarah Allen teamed up in towing the Ladybirds to the easy win, as they knocked in three goals apiece. Castillo made her hattrick in succession in the first half with her first goal going in right in the opening minute of the match. Her last two were registered in the fifth and ninth minute, while Allen also scored in the first half, finding the back of the net in the 33rd minute to give the Ladybirds a promising 4-1 advantage.

The Kickers notched its first goal courtesy of Diana Maniacop in the 19th minute and then moved within two off an own goal in the 34th. However, the Ladybirds got the goal back when Gillian Villagomez lit up the board in the 39th minute to keep the Ladybirds' safe distance at halftime, 5-1.

In the second half, the Ladybirds drew both of its goals from



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Kickers' Kyla Ito, left, and the Flyers' Sarah Allen, center, battle for the ball, while the latter's teammate steps into the play during the first half of their Division A game in the Dove women's league last Sunday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Sarah Allen, who scored in the 41st and 57th minute, allowing her team to bounce back from a sorry 3-4 loss to the Flyers last Nov. 8.

The Ladybirds fell short in its game against the Flyers despite getting help from Castillo and Allen. Allen handed the Ladybirds its lone goal in the first half, while the Flyers collected four to gain enough cushion. Guinevere Borja canned back-to-back goals with her conversion in the eighth and 26th minute, while Irish Pagarao and Jeraldine Castillo nailed the two others in the 32nd and 34th, respectively.

A Jeralyn shot in the 42nd minute sliced the deficit to 2, 2-4, and the Ladybirds moved closer off another goal from the older Castillo 10 minutes later. However, the Flyers hung tough on defense in the remaining minutes of the match to preserve its lead and escape with the close victory.

The Flyers made it two in a row as it won via forfeit against the Divas in the other game last Sunday. The Flyers got the free victory as the Divas failed to muster enough players for the weekend opener. Only Anela Duenas, Krizel Tuason, Chloe Salvosa, and Renita Fleming showed up for the game.

Before giving up the easy win to the Flyers, the Divas also came off a 0-4 defeat at the hands of the Kickers last Nov. 8.

Jayda Mendoza led the Kickers' shutout triumph over the Divas as she tallied two goals in the second half. Karleen Reyes and Kyla Ito recorded the two other goals for the Kickers in the first half with the former scoring in the fourth minute and the latter in the 15th. Mendoza fired her first goal in the 58th and the second and last nine minutes later.



Gostkowski's 54-yard FG keeps Patriots unbeaten, 27-26

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From stats man to SLLBI head



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A.J. Murig holds the check that was presented to the CNMI delegation during the awards banquet of this year's Senior League World Series in Bangor, Maine.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There won't be any adjustment period for Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. president A.J. Murig because serving on the board is nothing new to him.

Murig has been a member of the board for more than five years as chief statistician of the CNMI's longest-running youth baseball program. This will be the first time though that he'll be in an elective post.

"Serving on the Saipan Little League board is not new to me, I've been here for six years but this is my first time to serve in another capacity. Before, I used to do my grandfather's role as chief statistician," Murig told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The responsibility of being a volunteer with the Saipan Little League program is still the same. You need commitment to serve in the youth baseball program," added Murig, the grandson of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios.

Joe Lizama, who was also elected to the SLLBI board, now will be taking over Murig's role as chief statistician in the coming 2016 season.

"I've been the chief statistician where I applied everything what I've learned from my grandfather. Now Joe will be taking over my role, I'm confident Joe can perform my duties as chief statistician since he is also Tan Ko's student," said Murig.

Former Saipan senator Ray Yumul (vice president), Malcolm Omar (secretary), Tom Guerrero (treasurer), Ton Camacho

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Teen Ayuyus to train again soon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's pool of U13 and U14 players will resume their training sessions soon despite completing their participation in the East Asian Football Federation Boys U13 Festival 2015 just last week at the Leo Palace Resort Field in Guam.

"Coach Seki (Kiyoshi Sekiguchi) will be back tomorrow (today) from Japan and we will discuss the training schedule for the U13/14 players. There is an AFC U14 festival for boys next year and we will prepare for this festival as early as possible," said Jershwin Angeles, who coached the CNMI U13 National Team that joined the EAFF festival from Nov. 8 to 10.

Angeles is talking of the AFC U14 Regional Festival

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The CNMI's Jhoey Noble, left, dribbles past Hong Kong defenders during their game in the East Asian Football Federation Boys U13 Festival 2015 at the Leo Palace Resort Field in Guam last week.

'Pacific Island athletes to benefit competing against Australia, NZ'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

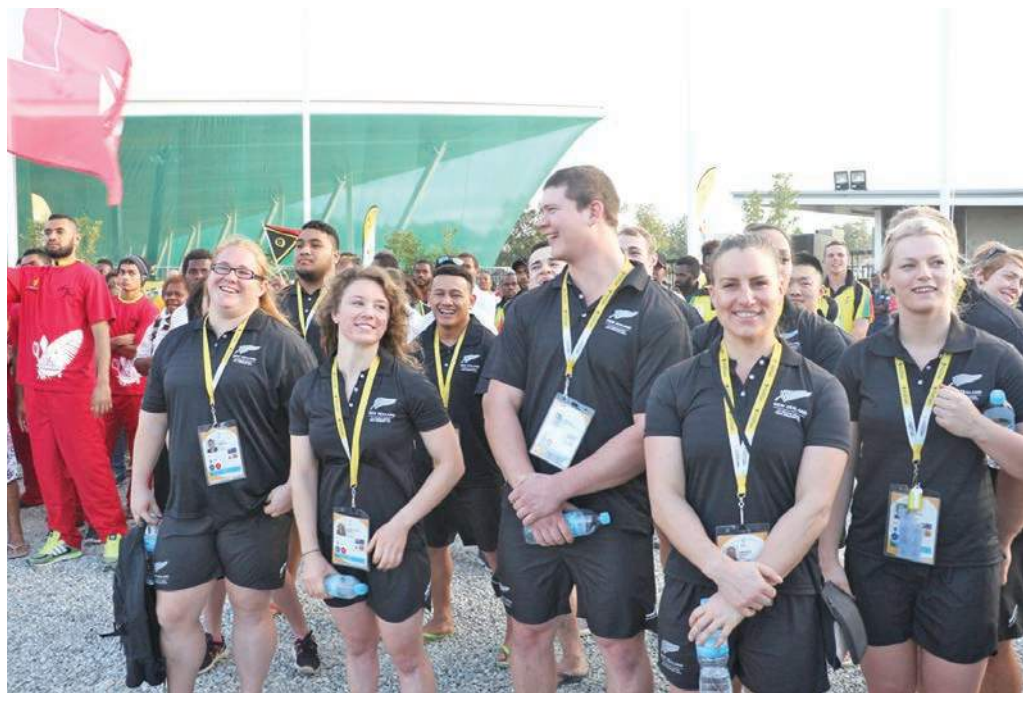
Northern Marianas Sports Association president Mike White sees no problem with the Pacific Games Council's decision to allow Australia and New Zealand to compete in the Pacific Games, adding that it would be beneficial to Pacific Island athletes.

The two Oceania powerhouses made their debut in this year's Pacific Games, the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event in Papua New Guinea. Both countries were invited to compete in only four sports—rugby 7s, sailing, taekwondo, and weightlifting—in Port Moresby.

White, in an interview by *Saipan Tribune*, said the plan was previously discussed by the PGC in the past and it was only last year that the governing body of the Pacific Games unanimously agreed to let both countries compete.

"It was the decision of the council that their participation would be limited to sports that the Pacific Island athletes can be competitive," added White,

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FOXSPORTSPULSE.COM
New Zealand athletes line up as they await the flag raising ceremony in this year's XV Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea. New Zealand and Australia competed for the first time in the Pacific Games, hosted for the third time by Port Moresby.